Local Government Service

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THE NEW YEAR HONOURS

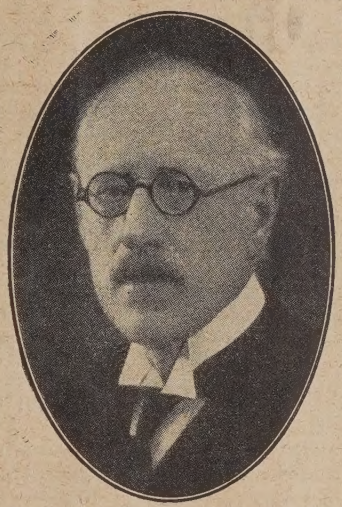
N.A.L.G.O. AND THE PAST-PRESIDENT'S KNIGHTHOOD

THE inclusion of the names of several well-known figures in the local government service lent added interest—from the official's point of view—to the publication of this year's New Year Honours List. To the vast organisation of N.A.L.G.O. the knighthood conferred upon its Immediate Past-President, now Sir Arthur Palmer Johnson, M.A., will be acclaimed as a signal honour both for the man and for the organisation to which he devoted himself so wholeheartedly. Sir Arthur's record of service in the local government sphere is a worthy one; his worth to N.A.L.G.O. is recognised by every member who is acquainted with the growth—the phenomenal growth—of the organisation. It is thought by some that the part he played in the development of N.A.L.G.O. will be reckoned amongst his greatest achievements. He was the first honorary solicitor to the Association from 1907 to 1910, and whilst holding that office he drafted the first Superannuation Bill.

IN N.A.L.G.O.'s SERVICE

Over an unbroken period of twenty-one years he has held the chairmanship of the National Executive Council and that of President from June, 1924, to May, 1931. It will be recalled that Sir Arthur relinquished the presidential chair last Whitsuntide when a new office, that of Immediate Past-President, was created to provide him with a seat on the Council for another year.)

As an undergraduate of Emmanuel, Cambridge, Sir Arthur took his B.A. degree in 1887 and, on leaving the University, became articled to his father, Sir Samuel Johnson, Town Clerk and Clerk of the Peace for the City of Nottingham, long and honourably known for many years as the "doyen" of England's Town Clerks. In 1891 he was admitted solicitor and took his M.A. degree; also, in the same year, being appointed Mayor's Secretary and Assistant Solicitor and Clerk to the Visitors at Nottingham asylum. In 1893 he was appointed Vestry Clerk at Hampstead, four years later receiving the additional appointment of solicitor to that body. On the coming into force of the *Local Government Act* of 1899, and the creation of the Hampstead Borough Council, he was appointed Town Clerk and Solicitor, a position he retained until January of last year. He was regarded



SIR ARTHUR P. JOHNSON, M.A.

with affection by his councillors and recognised as an exceedingly able and experienced colleague in his profession.

Sir Arthur Johnson has always taken a very great interest in sport, being captain of the Emmanuel College (Cambridge) Boat Club and representing his College in rowing, cricket, association football and tennis. He is a past-president of the Metropolitan Town Clerks' Association, a member of the Borough Council Standing Joint Committee since its initiation and has been a member of the Council of the Law Committee of the Association of Municipal Corporations from 1900 to 1931. On February 4 of last year the freedom—the first honorary freedom—of the Borough of Hampstead was conferred upon him.

COMPLIMENTARY DINNER

The National Executive Council is arranging a complimentary dinner to Sir Arthur P. Johnson, for many years president of N.A.L.G.O., in honour of his knighthood. The dinner will be held at the Grosvenor House Hotel, Park Lane, London, W.1, on Saturday, March 19. Tickets may be obtained by any member of the Association, price 10s. 6d. each, exclusive of wine, from the General Secretary, 24 Abingdon Street, Westminster, S.W.1.

PRESIDENT'S TRIBUTE

MR. S. LORD, President of N.A.L.G.O.—he succeeded Sir Arthur at the beginning of the N.A.L.G.O. year—at a meeting of the National Executive Council, on Saturday, January 16 last, congratulated Sir Arthur upon the high honour conferred upon him by H.M. the King. He said: "It will be true to say that the honour conferred upon him (Sir Arthur) is the most popular of any yet offered to any man in the local government service. Who could say it is not well earned? It is pleasing to us, as co-workers of Sir Arthur, to know that his devotion to the cause over so long a period of years has been recognised. Nothing I can say will raise Sir Arthur in your estimation. You are all aware of his character, his personality and his sincerity. The best we can wish him, and Lady Johnson, is a long and happy life in which to enjoy the honour which is theirs."

AN HONOUR FOR N.A.L.G.O.

The following is reproduced from THE MUNICIPAL JOURNAL, *January* 1, 1932.

The knighthood which the King has conferred upon Mr. Arthur P. Johnson, as announced in to-day's New Year's Honours List, will be welcomed by everyone interested in local government. The honour has been well earned. While Mr. Johnson has to his credit a long official record as a town clerk and also varied public services, the honour which he receives will be associated especially with the work which he has done for the National Association of Local Government Officers. All members of the organisation will salute Sir Arthur with feelings of the warmest appreciation and of gratitude.

When he became connected with N.A.L.G.O., two years after its foundation in 1907, the membership was only 8,874. The Association was struggling to live up to its name. It has now a membership of over 65,000, and is one of the most important national organisations in the country. Its phenomenal growth and increasing usefulness have been due in a large measure to the devoted and untiring services of Mr. Johnson. During the last twenty-five years he has sacrificed most of his lesiure to its service, and all local government officers appreciate very highly the help which he has given to the cause of good local government. . . .

No one who is without the experience of building up a great national organisation can understand how strenuous has been the work put in by Mr. Johnson. He has always been in attendance at committee meetings and kept his fingers on the policy of the organisation at headquarters. Apart, however, from his services to members of the organisation, Mr. Johnson always paid as much attention to efficiency and integrity as to service conditions, and exercised a profound influence upon the whole organisation of local government.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE AND UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT

By A. L. PEACOCK, D.P.A., F.S.S.

UNDER the *National Economy Act*, 1931, the Government made an Order in Council placing an entirely new duty upon local authorities in connection with the payment of Unemployment Benefit. It has introduced an entirely new principle into local government administration by making the Public Assistance authorities the local agents for a Central Government Department, the Ministry of Labour, in assessing the needs of adult applicants for benefit who have exhausted their rights under what is known as the "First Statutory Condition." Such persons now cease to be entitled to ordinary benefit after it has been paid to them for a maximum of twenty-six weeks in a benefit year. Thereafter, their claim to further benefit, that is, Transitional Payment, as it has been christened, is determined by the Public Assistance authorities after examining individual needs.

Briefly, the procedure is that when the claimant exhausts his right to ordinary benefit, within his benefit year, he is given a form at the Employment Exchange for completion and return. This form is then forwarded by the Employment Exchange to the Public Assistance authority, who inquire into the claimant's means and assess the amount of benefit which is to be paid; this is not to be more than ordinary benefit rates, but can be less. Four weeks is the maximum period for which such transitional payment is permitted, after which the claimant's need is again subject to review. There is no right of appeal against the assessment of individual need made by the authority. The Ministry of Labour, through the Employment Exchanges, pays benefit and keeps in systematic touch with the claimants. It is, therefore, with the claim, rather than with the claimant, apart from his financial needs, with which the Public Assistance authority is concerned.

In assessing the amount of transitional payment, the authority proceeds in the same manner as if the application was being considered from an able-bodied person for public assistance. Additional costs incurred by the authority in administration, extra staff, premises, will be reimbursed to them by the Exchequer.

From the local government point of view, these fresh arrangements are of very considerable interest for they have introduced an entirely new feature into local government administration, the Public Assistance authorities becoming the agents of a Central Department of the State, the Ministry of Labour, in undertaking functions on behalf of the Central Government. There is no doubt that the Public Assistance authorities, by the very nature of the duties they ordinarily perform, have much better machinery for assessing individual need than ever the Ministry of Labour could have devised for itself. Moreover, it is obviously more economical to have utilised existing machinery, even though its extension was necessary, than to have set up an entirely new organisation.

These changes have brought the Ministry of Labour and the Public Assistance authorities into close and continuous co-operation which, at some future date, is capable of development along lines not now apprehended. However that may be, the fact is that the State Department, the Local Authority, the Civil Servants and the local government officer, have been given something entirely novel in administration to implement.

If such arrangements are capable of being made as between the State Department and the Public Assistance Authorities, could not similar co-ordination be effected in regard to other matters in which the State Departments and the Local Authorities now have joint interests? Even at this early stage, it is possible to see how the new principle in Public Administration might extend in all sorts of directions where the interests of the State Department and the Local Authorities coincide.

To the administrator and the student of public administration the introduction of co-operative action between the Ministry of Labour and the Public Assistance authorities cannot fail to be of very great interest. By such changes as this one has brought into operation, the curious framework of English central and local government received still another patch.

ENGLAND

England! How sweet they name doth sound
Unto a Briton wandering lone
And languishing on foreign ground
For glimpses of his native zone.

Great thy glories, alien shore;
And great the splendour that ye hold;
Each citadel which ye unfold
But makes the heart love England more.

O, for a quiet lane of green;
The peace of some old English home,
In place of eastern mosque and dome.
And palaces, howe'er serene.

My soul lies in that English lane;
Nor would I for the wealth and power
Of potentates, reclaim again,
Or desecrate its sacred bower.

England! Dear England! Though I roam
Far from they noble realm and free;
Within my heart ye'll always be
Not England, but my Home, Sweet Home!

GEORGE L. NAYLOR.

STUDENTS' NOTES

N.A.L.G.O. EXAMINATIONS

The attention of students is directed to the fact that for the Preliminary Examination of the N.A.L.G.O. in 1933, a new syllabus will come into force. Copies are now available and may be obtained from the General Secretary of the Association.

A.R.V.O. EXAMINATIONS

Candidates are reminded that the next examinations of the A.R.V.O. will be held on April 21, 22, and 23. Applications to sit must be forwarded to the Honorary Examinations Secretary not later than March 12.

NATIONAL CRISIS

The N.A.L.G.O. Correspondence Institute has experienced one of the effects of the national crisis, there being a noticeable tendency on the part of new students to hold up their educational programmes either in order to conserve their financial resources, or for similar reason. Economists do not tire of pointing out that in times such as these, it is disastrous for people to hold up important improvements.

It is better to look at this problem from the point of view of the results which would accrue from the possession of examination qualifications, because in many cases local authorities give an increment of salary which, when taken over a period of years, means a large sum and will repay many times over the small cost of preparing for the examination.

EDUCATION OFFICIALS

A leading Director of Education has written pointing out that, comparatively speaking, few of the rank and file officials in education offices take courses of preparation in Education Administration. He has stated that, in his view, the special course in (a) Administration and (b) General Principles, provided by the N.A.L.G.O. Correspondence Institute offers an admirable training to these officers. Although the course is primarily intended for candidates taking the N.A.L.G.O. Final Examination, it is available as a single subject course for those students who merely wish to go deeper into the problems which require consideration by themselves and their colleagues, and the circumstances which have given rise to them.

EDUCATION CORRESPONDENTS

There are Education Correspondents in 173 branches of the Association, and if any members are in doubt as to their best course of progress, they are recommended to seek a personal interview with the Education Correspondent in their area, and to talk the question over with him.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS AT THE JANUARY MEETING

A MEETING of the Executive Council of the National Association of Local Government Officers was held at the headquarters of the Association, 24 Abingdon Street, S.W.1, on Saturday, January 16. There were present :—

Sir Arthur P. Johnson, in the chair, Mr. S. Lord, president, and Messrs. E. W. B. Abbott, A. G. M. Archibald, W. W. Armitage, W. G. Auger, J. T. Baker, H. Begg, A. G. Bolton, J. Chaston, G. W. Coster, F. R. Finch, T. Freeman, J. E. Gee, F. A. Gibbs, F. W. Greenhalgh, J. Llewellyn, W. E. Lloyd (treasurer), Parker Morris, M. O. McAuliffe, H. S. Newton, A. D. Ogden, A. Pinches, C. A. W. Roberts, E. H. Scarlett, J. W. Singleton, J. H. Stone, W. H. Whinnerah, J. W. Wilkinson, F. J. Willett, Dr. A. Wotherspoon, and Mrs. G. Franks.

EX-PRESIDENT'S HONOUR

At the commencement of the proceedings, the president, MR. S. LORD, in the name of the Executive and the Association generally, congratulated Sir Arthur P. Johnson upon the honour recently conferred upon him by H.M. the King. Condolence was offered to the widow of the late Mr. William Graham, formerly M.P. and President of the Board of Trade in the late Labour administration. The president's tribute to Mr. Graham's work and his interest in the welfare of the local government officer is printed on page 365.

A letter was read from Miss E. Gaukroger, acknowledging the Association's assistance in meeting the expenses necessitated by the accident which she sustained at the Edinburgh Conference. "It was an unfortunate accident," Miss Gaukroger wrote, "but it might so easily have been much worse."

There came before the Executive Council an amended report of the Establishment and General Purposes Sub-Committee, relative to loans for educational purposes. The draft scheme proposed the payment of a maximum amount of 80 per cent. of the cost of a particular examination, interest being calculated at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum. It was suggested that the scheme should be administered by the Education Committee.

MR. PARKER MORRIS declared against the proposals, pointing out that what was wanted was a scheme which would enable the local government officer to acquire the necessary technical, professional, and administrative qualifications, to enable him, or her, to attain to the very highest posts in the service. He moved an amendment, appointing a special committee to consider a much larger scheme and one which would exclude examination and tuition fees.

Only three voted for the acceptance of the sub-committee's report and Mr. Parker Morris's motion was carried. A further motion delegating to the same committee the preparation of a scheme of scholarships was also carried.

The Executive appointed Mr. S. Lord, Sir Arthur Johnson, and Mr. Hill, the general secretary, to represent the Association at the International Congress of Local Authorities, to be held in this country, commencing on May 5.

MR. E. W. B. ABBOTT, one of the vice-presidents of N.A.L.G.O., announced his pending retirement from the service. A reference to Mr. Abbott's resignation appears on page 369.

BENEVOLENT AND ORPHAN FUND

MR. H. S. NEWTON, chairman of the Benevolent and Orphan Fund Management, placed before the Executive a report of the proceedings of that committee held the previous day. In connection with the education of N.A.L.G.O. orphans, the committee was informed that the chairman had visited the Royal Orphanage, Wolverhampton; the London Orphan Asylum, Watford; the Sir Josiah Mason's Orphanage, Erdington; the Manchester Warehousemen and Clerks' Orphan School, Cheadle Hulme; and the Royal Infant Orphanage, Wanstead, and thereupon considered his report upon each institution. One other institution is to be visited. A communication was read from a recipient's daughter informing the committee that she had been successful in obtaining a teaching appointment, and conveying her thanks for the kindness shown to her mother and herself by the rendering of financial assistance until she was able to qualify for her appointment.

It was stated that 40,420 copies of the "Help Yourself" Annual for 1931 had been sold, resulting in a net surplus of £2,834 for the Fund as compared with 42,112, in 1930 (£2,885). The financial statement for 1931 showed income in respect of donations, etc., for the year amounted to £12,476 as compared with £11,012 for 1930. Grants made by the fund amounted to £10,180 compared with £8,744 in the previous year. The committee was desirous that a hundred per cent. membership should be secured. Only by this means could increased fees be avoided. It was reported that the officers of the Harton Institution, South Shields, had made a donation of £40 to the Fund, in recognition of the successful action taken by the Association on their behalf in connection with ration allowances and that the Keighley Branch had made a donation of £5 5s. in recognition of the action taken by the Association in regard to negotiations in connection with salaries. Such action on the part of the donors was appreciated. A suggestion that an amateur photographic competition should be held, the proceeds to be divided equally between a prize fund and the B. and O. Fund, had been referred to a special sub-committee for report, the same committee to consider the possibilities of a cross-word competition being held in aid of the Fund. The committee had referred a suggestion for the formation of a scheme for the collection of tin foil on behalf of the B. and O. Fund to a standing special sub-committee for report. Since the last meeting of the committee, 140 life membership fees had been received, making the number of life members since the inception of the Fund, 5,792.

The report of the Benevolent and Orphan Fund Management Committee was adopted.

LAW AND PARLIAMENTARY

As chairman of the Law and Parliamentary Committee, MR. PARKER MORRIS laid before the Executive, the report of that committee's meeting held on January 15. The committee recommended that the opinion of Counsel be taken on the question, whether there would be any legal objection to the Association, before giving legal assistance to a member in bringing an action to obtain damages, requiring such member to enter into an agreement that he would pay out of any damages obtained, any costs disallowed on taxation which the Association would have to meet. In further considering cases of legal assistance, the committee had had before it particulars of a dispute in which a member claimed compensation for loss of office of Clerk and Treasurer of a district committee in Scotland. A further opinion had been obtained on the specific question whether, in view of the rule of law to which the Legal Secretary had called attention—that, where a statute imposes an obligation and also provides a remedy in the event of the obligation not being carried out, or being carried out improperly, that remedy is the only one open to the person aggrieved—and in consequence of the purport of that opinion, the chairman of the committee had given authority for proceedings to be taken. An application for assistance in making a claim on behalf of a member who, while on duty, was knocked down by a private motor car, had been received and the chairman of the committee had given authority for a local solicitor to be instructed, on the understanding that legal proceedings were not to be commenced against the driver without the Legal Department of the Association first being consulted. This action was confirmed.

A night nurse at a Public Institution was refused a refund of a solicitor's fee of three guineas in respect of legal representation at a Coroner's inquiry, application for representation not having first been made to the Public Assistance Committee. Her local branch had applied for the amount to be met by the Association and a grant had been made. At a meeting of ratepayers in the district, reflections had been made upon the officers of the Ramsgate Corporation, it being alleged by one speaker that no offer had been made to the council in respect of temporary deductions in their salaries and that "instead of coming forward graciously in this crisis—instead of being men in every sense of the term—they make no offer voluntarily or otherwise." The Association's solicitors were instructed to communicate with the speaker, pointing out that an offer had, in fact, been made several weeks prior to the meeting. The remarks constituted a reflection upon the officials and an apology had been demanded. Subject to the confirmation being given by the Tadcaster Branch, authority had been given for an action to be commenced for libellous statements against the Sanitary Inspector.

The report of the Association's Parliamentary Agents on Private Bills introduced in the Session 1931–2 had been received and action was being taken where necessary. Generally speaking, the provisions in the Bills relating to transfer, superannuation, and compensation of officers were satisfactory, but in a number of cases the promoters were being asked to accept certain minor amendments. So far as compensation was concerned, it was now usual to apply the provisions of the Eighth Schedule to the Local Government Act, 1929, with the necessary modifications. Circular letters relating to the promotion of Bills had been addressed to every Member of Parliament (other than members of the Government) and to Branch Secretaries, and already replies had been received from certain members intimating that if successful in the ballot for Private Members' Bills they would be prepared to introduce a Bill to deal with any one of the three matters referred to, viz., (1) To preserve the pension rights of local government officers whose salaries or wages are temporarily reduced on the ground of national economy; (2) To remove a number of anomalies which have arisen under the Local Government Act, 1922, particularly since the transfer of the officers of Boards of Guardians to the County Councils and County Borough Councils by that Act; and (3) To give effect to the recommendation in paragraph 471 of the Final Report of the Royal Commission on Local Government, 1929, that there should be an amendment of the law so

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as to provide that, notwithstanding the provisions in section 189 of the Public Health Act, 1875, and other analogous enactments empowering local authorities to dismiss their officers at pleasure, it should be competent for local authorities to enter into contracts with their officers providing for reasonable notice of termination of any such contract on either side, and that such contract should be binding on both parties. The committee resolved that if one of the members who had given favourable promise was successful in the ballot he should be asked to introduce the first-mentioned Bill. Having considered the provision of the draft Bill dealing with tenure of office or employment of officers or servants of local authorities who now hold office or employment during the pleasure of the appointing authority, the committee resolved that the Ministry of Health, the Association of Municipal Corporations, and the County Councils' Association be approached with the object of inducing the first-named to take steps to promote a Bill to deal with the position.

Since the last meeting of the committee the Association had received from the Ministry of Health a considerable number of drafts of Orders altering or rearranging the areas of local authorities proposed to be made by the Minister under either Section 54 of the Local Government Act, 1888, or Section 46 of the Local Government Act, 1929. The provisions relating to the transfer, superannuation, and compensation of officers in the draft Orders were generally satisfactory, but certain minor amendments had been asked for, and in several instances the Ministry had accepted such amendments.

It was reported to the committee that the Clerk of a Rural District Council claimed, and was awarded, compensation by his Council, for a reduction in his salary following a reorganisation of the Council's staff brought about by the coming into operation of the Local Government Act, 1929. The District Auditor intimated that he proposed at the next audit to disallow the compensation on the ground that in his opinion the reorganisation of staff would have taken place in any case whether or not the Local Government Act, 1929, had been passed. Representations were made by the Association to the Ministry of Health and the Clerk was also advised to call the attention of the District Auditor to the case of *Livingstone v. Mayor of Westminster* (1904) 2 K.B.109, in which it was decided that once an amount of compensation was fixed it became a specialty debt and the compensating authority had no power to alter the amount. It was submitted that under the circumstances the District Auditor had no power to disallow the compensation. Finally, the Auditor decided not to make any disallowance.

It was further reported that the Ministry of Health had not yet given reply to the representations made by the deputation sent from the Association to the Ministry on August 4, 1931, when it was submitted that in determining compensation appeals the Minister ought not to take into account the remuneration received by the appellant for an appointment obtained under any local authority after the pecuniary loss had been sustained, but before the appeal was determined. The Legal Secretary also reported that the previous day he had had an interview with Mr. E. P. Everest, the Honorary Secretary of the Local Government Clerks' Association, who had asked whether it could be arranged for the two Associations jointly to obtain the opinion of counsel on the practice of the Minister in this matter.

It was resolved that a case be submitted to counsel on behalf of the two Associations. The Legal Secretary was instructed to inform the Reading and District Branch, in reply to representations on the subject, that the present was a very inopportune time at which to approach the Chancellor of the Exchequer with a view to relief being allowed for income tax in respect of subscriptions to professional societies.

The report of the Law and Parliamentary Committee was approved.

SERVICE CONDITIONS AND ORGANISATION

On behalf of the Service Conditions and Organisation Committee, Mr. A. G. M. ARCHIBALD submitted a report of the proceedings of that committee. MR. A. F. KIDSON wrote expressing appreciation of the decision of the Executive Council to extend honorary membership of N.A.L.G.O. to him. A letter was received from the Secretary of the Incorporated Society of Inspectors of Weights and Measures expressing, on behalf of the Council of the Society, sincere appreciation of the invaluable information relating to decision concerning the salaries of local government officers supplied to them from time to time. "I desire also," the letter continued, "to congratulate your Association upon the admirable organisation which has enabled it to keep, not only its own members, but also the sectional societies, informed so expeditiously with such a great amount of useful data." It had been reported to the committee through the General Organisation Sub-committee, after considering a report prepared by the General Secretary, that the sub-committee considered no increase in the number of elective members of the N.E.C. was necessary. Draft scales of salaries and conditions of service had been before the sub-committee and consideration further adjourned. The question of draft scales of salaries and conditions of service for institutional and nursing staffs had been referred to the Poor Law Transferred Officers Committee for consideration. It was reported from the Sports Sub-Committee that the Yeoward Line, Ltd., would arrange for a steamer to sail from Liverpool on Saturday, July 23, on a twenty-two days' cruise, the probable itinerary of which would be Lisbon, Casablanca, Madeira, and Canary Islands; that the steamer would probably be the s.s. "Avoceta"; at a reduced fare this year, and that a few cabins would be allotted for accommodation by two persons at somewhat higher rate.

Alternative cruises for ten to twenty days had been considered upon the suggestion of the North-western District Committee, and the General Secretary authorised to obtain the best terms possible from shipping companies for a cruise to the Baltic States, commencing at the end of July. The Metropolitan District Committee had recommended that, having regard to the valuable amount of propaganda work effected by the sports activities of the Association, the N.E.C. consider the advisability of rendering financial assistance to the District Committees for the development of sports and recreations. The committee had drawn the attention of the District Committee to Rule 17 (b) empowering the N.E.C. to make additional grants to District Committees under certain conditions, and in approved cases. Correspondence had passed between the Association and the Electrical Power Engineers organisation relative to dual membership and conditions of service. The Association had agreed to the suggestion of the Electrical Power Engineers' Association, that N.A.L.G.O. should recognise the schedule of the National Joint Board of Employers and members of staffs (electricity supply industry) as the scale of salaries appropriate to members of the technical staffs of electricity departments.

One district committee and nineteen branches had, it was stated, submitted applications for approval of revised rules, and in each case such revisions were approved. The committee had accepted the applications of twenty-four officers for retired membership.

The report of the Service Conditions and Organisation Committee was approved.

EDUCATION

The Education Committee, in a report submitted by MR. E. W. B. ABBOTT, chairman, stated that applications for exemption from the Association's preliminary examination had been received from thirty-eight members and that such had been granted in every case except one. The committee agreed to forward a letter of congratulation to the Sheffield Municipal Officers' Guild on the successful outcome of their negotiations with the University of Sheffield for the institution of a Diploma in Public Administration. The Diploma will be awarded by the University of Sheffield, and the courses of study will be open to all persons who satisfy the Senate that they are qualified to pursue them with profit. It is fully anticipated that the University authorities will interpret this in a sympathetic manner. The courses of study will extend over two years. Similar action was recommended in the case of the Exeter Education Correspondents for the arrangements made for lectures to be given during the 1931-32 session at the University College, Exeter, on subjects included in the N.A.L.G.O. Intermediate Examination. The committee was informed that for the N.A.L.G.O. examination to be held on January 21, 22, and 23, seventy-six candidates had entered in the Preliminary, thirty-three in the Intermediate and nine in the Final grades. A communication was read from the Bursar of Selwyn College, Cambridge, intimating that accommodation could be provided in the College for the N.A.L.G.O. Summer School during the week July 2 to 9. This offer the committee resolved to accept, and the N.E.C. was asked to authorise the expenditure of £200 in respect of Summer Schools in England and Scotland. Arrangements for the Scottish School were left in the hands of the chairman of the Education Committee and Mr. Begg, acting chairman of the Scottish Education Committee. The Scottish D.O.S. had outlined the arrangements made for the Scottish Summer School. The School would be held at St. Andrews University for the week beginning July 16. In consequence of the death of Mr. W. Graham, who was to have spoken at the opening dinner and lectured later in the week, the committee had authorised other arrangements to be made. Yearly progress of the N.A.L.G.O. Correspondence Institute was before the committee. Students enrolled during 1931 numbered 728 and fees amounted to £3,525. The corresponding figures for the previous year were, students, 664; fees, £3,137. The tables showed a steady influx of students in the more popular courses, and a reasonable percentage of examination successes were obtained. Attention had been paid to following up the students and pressing them to maintain a steady flow of work; this, the committee was pleased to report, had very effective results, and it was no exaggeration to say that the students had submitted a greater number of test papers to be marked during 1931 than ever before. Professor Ford (head of the department of Commerce, University College Southampton) had agreed to act as Tutor in Economics and Mr. T. C. Penn (Rating and Valuation Officer for Woking) as Director of Studies for the courses for Rating and Valuation Officers. Mr. F. V. Merriman having resigned the examinership in Education, had been succeeded by Mr. Arthur Lewis, B.A., Barrister-at-Law, Director of Education (West Bromwich).

The report of the Education Committee was approved.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

PROVIDENT SOCIETY

The report of the Provident Society Committee of Management was submitted under the name of Mr. W. H. Whinnerah. Amalgamation of life policies of the Provident Society and Logomia had it was stated been effected in 1,049 cases. Two holders had refused to transfer. The Committee of Management had agreed that the whole of the Life Fund be transferred to Logomia and that the Board of Management of Logomia be asked to re-insure the Society's risk under the two policies which remain with the Society, in full, for the same premium as the members continue to pay to the Society. The question of extending the privilege of accepting a chief officer's certificate in lieu of a medical certificate in respect of new entrants under forty years, and of the paying of medical examination fee for members over that age had been discussed by the committee, and a decision to continue the practice until December 31, 1932, arrived at. In the sickness section of the Society 10,163 was the approximate total membership at the beginning of the year. There were 573 members of the death benefit.

The report of the Provident Society Committee of Management was approved.

APPROVED SOCIETY

The report of the proceedings of the Approved Society was presented by MR. S. LORD.

Statements regarding additional benefits having been considered the committee decided to increase the grant made for optical appliances and examination from 20s. to 25s.

The question of payment of hospital benefit to members whilst in sanatoria was considered and attention was called to the fact that the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Act, 1921, provides that County Councils and County Borough Councils shall make adequate arrangements for the treatment of tuberculosis at, or in, dispensaries, sanatoria or other institutions. Members will be informed of the responsibility of County Councils and County Borough Councils under the Tuberculosis Act.

The report of the Approved Society Committee of Management was approved.

POOR LAW TRANSFERRED OFFICERS

SIR T. PERCIVAL, chairman of the Poor Law Transferred Officers' Committee, submitted a report of that committee's proceedings. The committee had had under consideration a letter from the D.O.S. relative to the position in regard to salary deductions at South Shields. The Corporation had remitted Circular 1222 to all the various Council Committees for their consideration and report. At least five Committees were opposed to any reductions whatever, but the Public Assistance Committee had recommended reductions which were excessive and wholly unjustifiable in the case of certain members of the Public Assistance Staff.

The North-Eastern District had passed a resolution urging the N.E.C. to place all the resources of the Association at the disposal of the South Shields Branch, to oppose the action of the South Shields Public Assistance Committee. The committee resolved that a deputation, consisting of the Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Coster and Mr. Roberts, be sent to urge the Ministry of Health not to take any steps which would assist the Corporation in enforcing the excessive reductions of salary which it was desired to make in the case of those Public Assistance officers whose appointments could not be terminated except with the consent of the Minister; and, that the National Executive Council be asked to give authority to a sub-committee, consisting of the Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Coster and Mr. Roberts, to take, in consultation with the Chairman of the Law and Parliamentary Committee, such action (including legal proceedings if necessary) as may be considered desirable to prevent the South Shields Corporation from putting into force the excessive reductions of salary proposed in the case of the transferred officers.

A letter from the Stockport Branch stated that the Stockport Corporation had refused to accede to the request from the Employers Secretary of the Lancashire and Cheshire Whitley Council for an interview, thus confirming a decision of the Corporation's Economy Committee to put into operation salary reductions greatly in excess of those recommended by the Whitley Council, and decided to apply the reductions to the Public Assistance Officers, including those whose appointments could not be terminated except with the consent of the Minister of Health. It was resolved that action be taken on the same lines as in the South Shields case and that in the opinion of the committee, if the officers of the Stockport Corporation (other than the Public Assistance Officers) considered the salary reductions proposed in their case to be excessive, they should at once make a protest to the Corporation.

In January, 1931, the Gloucestershire County Branch informed the Association that the Gloucester C.C. had put into force a new and greatly reduced scale of rations for the officers of the Thornbury Public Assistance Institution. It was contended by the branch that the action of the Council was contrary to the provisions of Section 121 (1) of the Local Government Act, 1919. A copy of the Opinion obtained by the Association from Sir Lynden Macassey, K.C., on the reductions of officers' emoluments at South Shields was furnished to the branch for use in their negotiations with the County Council. On November 7, 1931, the branch informed the Association that the matter had been settled by the County Council agreeing to reinstate the old rate of ration allowance as from September 20, 1931, and to refund to the officers concerned the difference between the old scale and the withdrawn scale for the period during which the latter scale had been in operation.

The new regulations imposing means tests in connection with the payment of transitional benefit had resulted in an abnormal amount of overtime for relieving officers and other members of Public Assistance departments.

Resolutions from the Leeds Branch and the North-Western District Committee urged that all possible steps should be taken to secure adequate recognition of the additional duties thus imposed upon officers of Public Assistance staffs. The committee after considering these representations authorised the sending of a letter to the Ministry of Labour, urging that it is equitable that the officers of the Public Assistance Departments of County Councils and County Borough Councils who have been called upon to do the additional work imposed on them by the institution of a means test in connection with the payment of transitional benefit should be remunerated for that work, and requesting the Ministry to call the attention of the County Councils and County Borough Councils to the need for recognising that work by giving additional remuneration to the officers concerned. Authority was given to the Chairman of the committee to take such further action as may be considered necessary.

The report of the Poor Law Transferred Officers Committee was approved.

FINANCE

A record of the proceedings of the Financial and General Purposes Committee and of the meeting the previous day was laid before the Executive by MR. F. J. WILLETT. The twelve monthly financial statements prepared by the accounts sub-committee recorded an income of £58,312, compared with £46,647 for the previous year.

The committee after carefully considering a letter from the International Union of Local Authorities, agreed to recommend the N.E.C. to make a grant of £25 towards the expense of maintaining the business organisation in connection with the forthcoming Congress to be held in London commencing May 23. Consideration had been given to a request from the Skipton Branch that in view of the difficulty in working the social side of the branch (thirty members) a request be made that the amount submitted to Headquarters be reduced from 65 per cent. to 50 per cent. The branch was to be informed that any alteration in the amount of the rebate to branches must be decided by Conference. The committee thought the present amount of the rebate was sufficient for local purposes. A special sub-committee appointed to render assistance to the London C.C. Branch had met to review the whole question.

It was proposed that, for the present, the County Council branch share the office of the D.O.S. for the Metropolitan and Eastern District Committee.

Earnest consideration was given to the formation of the London C.C. Branch, which had a large potential membership, the methods by which the officers concerned could be approached and the possibility of amalgamation with the London County Council Staff Association. It was decided to invite representatives of the London County Council Staff Association to meet the sub-committee for an informal discussion on the possibility of the amalgamation of the two Associations, but the Executive Committee of the London County Council Staff Association stated that as no new facts had emerged which would tend to justify any departure from its previous decision not to participate in any joint action with the N.A.L.G.O., it was of the opinion that no useful purpose would be served by appointing representatives to such a conference.

The sub-committee considered it an essential to the successful formation of a strong and powerful branch of the Association that a full-time officer, with the status and qualifications of a Divisional Organising Secretary, should be appointed and, with this object in mind, authorised the insertion of an advertisement in the January, 1932, issue of the official journal. The honorary treasurer submitted a comparative

MORTGAGES

The report of the Mortgages Committee was placed before the Executive Council by Mr. S. LORD, the chairman. Arising out of a suggestion made by the General Secretary, regarding the formation of a building society, whereby the usual building society facilities for investment might be offered to N.A.L.G.O. members, which were not at present available under any section of the Association and whereby funds could then be invested by making advances for members, the committee approved the suggestion in principle and instructed the General Secretary to submit a detailed report at the next meeting.

The report of the Mortgages Committee was approved.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

statement of the receipts and payments for the period from January 1 to December 31, 1931, with the receipts and payments for the corresponding period of 1930 and the income and expenditure for the year 1930. This showed that the receipts for the period January to December, 1930, amounted to £46,647 5s. 8d. and the payments to £40,283 2s. 6d., and the receipts and payments for the corresponding period of 1931 were £58,312 0s. 6d. and £66,885 2s. 1d. respectively. The total income for 1930 was £56,781 15s. 8d. and the expenditure, £43,230 4s. 10d.

The report of the Finance and General Purposes Committee was approved.

GRAMOPHONE NOTES

To carry one well into the New Year with fresh enjoyments for fireside evenings, "His Master's Voice" have just issued a tempting list of gramophone records. That great patriotic play, *Cavalcade*, provides a remarkable descriptive disc reviewing in narrative and song thirty-two years of history. The succession of airs vividly conjures up pictures of the past—the funeral of Queen Victoria, the happy Edwardian days, the coming of War with its gay marching ditties, the Armistice with wildly cheering crowds, the ensuing unrest typified by the eccentricity of jazz and so down to the close of 1930, when visions of the future are heralded by the fervent singing of "Land of Hope and Glory." This is an effort to treasure as a reminder for those who lived these years and an impressive lesson for the young.

It is indeed difficult to add to the triumphs of Gracie Fields, but she is more than ever inspired in a perfect cameo of tragi-comedy, "Obadiah's Mother."

SALARY DEDUCTIONS

The full list of decisions notified during 1931 issued from headquarters early in January appears to have met the requirements of branches. As only a few decisions have been received since, it is not proposed to send out periodical lists. Further information will be recorded at headquarters and will be available, on request, to branches that may require it.

OLDHAM FUNCTION

About 240 members and guests, including Mr. S. Lord, President, and Mr. Hill, General Secretary of the Association, were present at the annual dinner and general meeting of the Oldham Branch of N.A.L.G.O. Members of the town council were also present.

Proposing the toast of "N.A.L.G.O.," the MAYOR, Alderman HAGUES, said he was proud to be president of the local branch. They were in the association not entirely for their own interests but for service, for the service which they rendered to municipality.

Replying, Mr. LORD said N.A.L.G.O. was a unique trade union. Nowhere in any country was there an association of officers built up on N.A.L.G.O. lines. The reason for N.A.L.G.O.'s success was that the Association was out for efficiency in the local government service.

For what it had done N.A.L.G.O. wanted conditions commensurate with the services rendered. The atmosphere which existed between Oldham Corporation and the staffs might in the future proceed on better lines than in past years. Oldham did not occupy a very enviable position in the local government world so far as the treatment of its officers was concerned. It would be for the good of the service if a more kindly feeling existed between the Corporation and the staffs.

Mr. L. H. TAYLOR, proposing the health of the branch, referred to the absence of active co-operation of the senior officers of the Corporation staff. No one had yet found that membership of N.A.L.G.O. was inconsistent with the performance of their duty to the Corporation.

'FLU AGAIN

There is another epidemic. It will affect the strong as well as the weak. There is no real remedy. Thousands of pounds will be incurred in Doctors' bills, medicines and extra nourishments. In the more serious cases a change of air will be essential.

10,000

members of N.A.L.G.O. will be eligible to draw a substantial weekly sum during the epidemic because they have remembered

THE 3 POINTS

For 6/- a month The Nalgo Provident Society

- **PAYS YOU £2.2.0 weekly whilst sick**
- **SENDS YOU to beautiful "Nalgo House," Matlock, for two weeks, to recuperate, and at the end of the year**
- **RETURNS YOU most of your payments — usually 75%**

Get a "3 Points" pamphlet from the Branch Officers or from

Nalgo Provident Society
24 Abingdon Street, London, S.W.1

SNOOKS v. BROOKS.

Or the Final of the N.A.L.G.O. Bowling Handicap

Being a "Christmas Night's Dream" of the Branch Sports Secretary after a surfeit of Christmas cheer.

"The Handicap 'Heats' are all ended ;
"We're playing the 'Final' to-night.
"On my left," said the Ref., *"we have* 'SNUFFLING' SNOOKS,
"And 'BABBLING' BROOKS *on my right."*

Snooks was the "Treasurer's" darling,
Brooks was the "T.C.'s" great "find."
Snooks had a start of six furlongs,
Brooks went a fortnight behind.

Snooks was a champion at Ludo;
He *pushed-on* his "men" to attack.
Brooks was a devil at ping-pong,
He shone best at "knocking 'em back."

Now they are facing the starter,
Toeing the mark side by side,
Pawing the ground with impatience,
Arching their necks in their pride.

One last drop of oil on their cue-tips,
As the saddling-bell goes *"ting-a-ling"* ;
Then they "toss" and shake hands in the "centre,"
And the seconds step out of the ring.

Snooks "served" straight at goal with his tee-shot,
Taking the jump in his stride;
But Brooks drove him hard to the boundary
And the referee blew for "off-side."

But Snooks found he'd run out of petrol.
(It couldn't last long at that pace.)
So Brooks promptly "huffed" Snooks' Bishop
With his second "emergency" ace.

Then the "ball-boy" said, as Brooks "potted" the red
With a drive and couple of putts,
"You've hit the pavilion clock, old cock !
"Will you have a cigar, or nuts ?"

He'd been three long weeks at the wicket,
When the caddie, he "upped" and he said,
"Stick it another few days, sir,
"There's the lights of Calais ahead !"

And then, as "stroke" quickened to "forty,"
They were ringing the "last-lap" bell,
"Shoot !" they yelled, *"for the love o' Mike !"*
Snooks shot—and a gamekeeper fell.

And now the last *chukka* had started.
The struggle was still neck-and-neck,
When Brooks served a "fault" with his niblick
And Snooks to his rival said *"Check !"*

At last they're at Tattenham Corner,
And Brooks, to win, needs one more "trick,"
So he shakes out a reef in the foresail,
And the Ref. gives a "penalty kick."

And Snooks reached the last green in two, sirs,
A pair of magnificent kicks !
But Brooks gamely changed to the "crawl" stroke,
And the scorer (of course) signalled "six."

The score stood at "ninety-nine all," sirs,
When Snooks found that he was alone.
Brooks had gone for a drink with the "audience !"
(And *both of them* paid for their own !)

At the deep end they both turned together,
As to the last hurdle they rose,
'Twas near as could be a "dead-heat," but
Brooks led—by the wart on his nose.

And Brooks kept his lead to the last, sirs,
'Tho' firing on only one lung.
But Snooks duly won—this is how it was done—
The dirty dog STUCK OUT HIS TONGUE !

W. A. C.

—(From the journal of the Salford Branch of N.A.L.G.O.)

"OUR LATE FRIEND AND HELPER"

MR. WILLIAM GRAHAM

By the death of the Right Hon. William Graham, a political career of much distinction and full of greater promise has been brought to an untimely close. Of his qualities as a statesman and parliamentarian due record has been made in the great national journals. To the Labour Party the loss of Mr. Graham is a grievous blow; as a parliamentarian, he was admittedly one of the most successful Ministers in the late Labour Government, in which he held the post of President of the Board of Trade, but the loss to English politics and government is also N.A.L.G.O.'s loss, for few men who found their way into the House of Commons devoted so much of their time to the interest of the vast army of local government officers as did Mr. Graham. He was, in fact, one of N.A.L.G.O.'s members in the House and it would be impossible to over-estimate the work he did for the Association, both in 1922, during the passing of the *Local Government and Other Officers' Superannuation Act*, and subsequently. But a few days before his death he accepted the invitation of the Scottish District Committee to speak at the opening of the 1932 Summer School at St. Andrews and he also was to have given several lectures to the students assembled at the school.

While in his early twenties, William Graham pursued a career in local public life. His work on the Edinburgh Town Council, where he served as chairman of several committees, and on local public bodies, enlarged his appreciation of the work of local government officials and thereafter he was never wanting in sympathy for any movement designed to improve the lot of the young officer. When, in 1918, he entered Parliament for Central Edinburgh his interest in the local government officer intensified, and N.A.L.G.O. found him ever willing to press its claims upon the House.

His illness had only caused anxiety over a few days, pneumonia supervening after an attack of influenza.

At the funeral the Association was represented by Sir Arthur Johnson, Mr. S. Lord and Mr. L. Hill.

PRESIDENTIAL TRIBUTE

At a meeting of the National Executive Council of N.A.L.G.O. in London on Saturday, the 16th January last, reference was made by Mr. S. Lord to the passing of Mr. W. Graham, "our late friend and helper." He regarded Mr. Graham as an outstanding personality; a man of exceptional ability who, by his own unaided effort, had achieved one of the highest positions in the government of the country. With all his success, Mr. Lord said, he was absolutely unaffected, and possessed all those qualities which characterised a gentleman. By his death the nation had lost a wise statesman and N.A.L.G.O. a true friend and adviser. It would be difficult to assess his work for their organisation. Notwithstanding his great burden of national and political responsibilities, he was always approachable and willing to fight in N.A.L.G.O.'s interest. The *Superannuation Act*, of 1922, was a memorial to his work.

The Late MR. WILLIAM GRAHAM

SUPERANNUATION CONTRIBUTIONS

Section 32 (1) of the Finance Act, 1921, provides that any sum paid by an employed person by way of contribution towards a superannuation fund shall, for the purpose of an assessment to income tax under Schedule E, be allowed to be deducted as an expense incurred in the year in which the sum is paid. The Income Tax Authorities do not, however, allow the whole of the contributions to be so deducted where the superannuation scheme provides for payment at retirement of a lump sum as well as a retiring allowance, e.g., in the case of the London County Council and Middlesex County Council superannuation schemes which provide for a lump sum payment on retirement in addition to a retiring allowance calculated on the basis of 1/80th instead of 1/60th of the average salary and emoluments for each year of service. In cases of this kind the Income Tax Authorities allow only 80 per cent. of the superannuation contributions to be deducted as an expense, but as a set off against that the contributor is not required to pay any income tax in respect of the lump sum payment in the year in which he receives it.

SUMMER SCHOOLS

N.A.L.G.O. Summer Schools for 1932 will be held as follows:

Cambridge, Selwyn College, July 2 to 9. St. Andrews, St. Salvator's Hall, July 16 to 23.

Full details of the programme will be published in a later issue, and a special pamphlet for each school is in course of preparation. Members are asked to note the dates, as the Education Committee is anxious that every place in the Schools shall be filled. These summer schools bring officers into close contact with influential members of the civil service, parliament, and universities, and serve the double purpose of introducing new ideas to officers and of drawing attention to the Association and its objects.

ESSAY COMPETITION

Open to all members

Sir Arthur Robinson, G.C.B., C.B.E., Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health, who was associated with the N.A.L.G.O. Summer Schools in 1930 and 1931, has again kindly presented a prize to the value of 5 guineas for the best essay on one of the undermentioned subjects:

(1) The principles on which, and the methods by which the relations between local authorities and the central departments of government should be regulated and improved.

(2) The principles on which, and the methods by which co-operation between different local authorities and different classes of local authorities may best be secured or developed.

The prize essay will form the basis of one of the informal meetings at the 1932 Cambridge Summer School. Copies of the essay will be circulated to students enrolled and, if not already a student, the author will be invited to attend for that session. If suitable in length the essay will be published in Local Government Service.

Rules.—(1) The competition is open to all members of the N.A.L.G.O. (2) The essay may be in manuscript, typewritten, or printed. (3) No stipulation is made as to length. (4) The final selection by Sir Arthur Robinson must be taken as conclusive. (5) Essays must reach the General Secretary, N.A.L.G.O., 24 Abingdon Street, Westminster, S.W.1, on or before June 20, 1932. (6) Each essay must be headed with the title chosen and a *nom de plume*. A sealed envelope containing the author's name, address, and branch and bearing on the outside his *nom de plume* must accompany the essay. Indication of the author's identity should not appear on the essay.

(7) The result of the competition will be announced prior to July 2, 1932.

WELL DONE, SHEFFIELD!

We are now able to give details of the successful termination of the negotiations which have been proceeding between the officers of the Sheffield Municipal Officers' Guild and the University of Sheffield, for the establishment at the University of facilities for the study of subjects of vital interest to the local government officer and for the institution of a Diploma in Public Administration, which will be tenable over a period of two terms in each of the two academic years. By its success Sheffield has supplied another link in the chain of lecture courses given in provincial Universities for members of N.A.L.G.O.

The first-year course, which has already begun (January 8), includes evening lectures in political and social theory and in the industrial and social history of Great Britain since 1760, including the history of local government, as well as studies in general economics. For the second year's course, classes have been arranged in the following subjects: Public Administration (Central and Local), Public Finance (Central and Local), Constitutional Law, and Public Economics, and Social Administration. The tutors, whose services the University has obtained to conduct the studies, are Mr. A. G. Pool, B.Sc. (Econ.) (London), Economics, and Mr. G. P. Jones, M.A. (Liverpool), Political and Social Theory and Economic History.

Briefly, the arrangements made with the University are these: The University grants a Diploma in Public Administration, which is awarded on a resolution of the Senate and no person is admitted to the courses of study for the Diploma who fails to satisfy the Senate that he is qualified to pursue the courses with profit.

The Diploma is awarded to candidates who can present evidence that they have attended the approved day or evening courses of study and who have passed the prescribed examinations. Regulations prescribe (*a*) the periods and courses of study, (*b*) the subjects of examination, (*c*) the fees to be paid for courses of study and for examinations.

There will be two examinations for the Diploma, Part I in first year subjects, and Part II in second year subjects. Part I to be taken at the end of the first year; candidates who fail in one subject only may be permitted by the Senate, on the recommendation of the Examiners, to offer themselves for that subject at any subsequent examination without attending further courses of instruction in that subject.

Such candidates may proceed to the courses of study prescribed for the second year, and may take Part II at the end of the second year, together with the examination in the referred subject, provided that the work of no candidate in Part II is considered by the Examiners unless he has completed Part I.

Candidates who have completed Part I and failed in one subject only of Part II may be permitted by the Senate, on the recommendation of the Examiners, to offer themselves in that subject at any subsequent examination without attending further courses of instruction.

The fee for the courses of study is £6 for each of the two years. The fee for each examination is £1 (single subjects 10s. 6d. each).

The Sheffield Municipal Officers' Guild would feel amply repaid for their efforts in securing the establishment of this Diploma if a considerable number of their colleagues from Sheffield and district were to take advantage of the facilities which the University now offers.

Erected in honour of the "Nalgoite" who accepted the cut in his salary without a murmur

The Late MR. H. J. HARDING

Worcester Branch of the N.A.L.G.O. mourns the loss of a valued colleague in the person of Mr. H. J. Harding, for seventeen years manager of the Worcester waterworks and the honorary secretary of the branch. He was active in the work until a few days before he died, being a member of a deputation which influenced the Economy Committee of the Corporation not to impose deductions in salaries. The committee's decision was made known on the day upon which Mr. Harding collapsed.

The Corporation and his colleagues were largely represented at the funeral, which took place on January 8. Miss D. Ogilvy, the Mayor, and Mr. C. H. Digly Smith, the Town Clerk, were among the mourners.

* * *

Four people were burned to death in Great Britain every day last year on an average. The majority of these agonising deaths occurred in the home, and ninety per cent. of them were due to nothing but carelessness.

The Cost of Carelessness.

Daily Paper, January, 1932

No matter how methodical, a person is liable in a moment of forgetfulness to err with devastating effect. The moral is

"BE INSURED"

THE "N.A.L.G.O." COMPREHENSIVE BONUS POLICY

covers the everyday risks of

Fire, Burglary, Lightning, Storm, Bursting or Overflowing of Water Pipes and Tanks, Accidents to Servants, Public Liability, Tenant's Liability, etc.

IN ADDITION, UP TO

£1,000

is paid in respect of the insured person if he is killed by the burning of his house, or in a train, omnibus, tram or cab accident.

PREMIUMS Per £100

Building - -	1/3
Contents - -	4/3
,, (Fire only)	1/8

FREE RENEWAL EVERY SIXTH YEAR IF NO CLAIM

N.A.L.G.O.

24 ABINGDON STREET WESTMINSTER. S.W.1

TRAINING FOR EXAMINATIONS

I.M.T.A. EXAMS.

(*for Municipal Accountants*)

New practical courses with a new style of tuition have been introduced. Director of Studies: Mr. PERCY CRAVEN, F.I.M.T.A., F.S.A.A. (Borough Treasurer of Hornsey), assisted by a full Panel of Tutors. Free service available for Junior I.M.T.A. Students.

Start study now for the 1933 *Exam.*

Prepare with N.C.I. for Honours

A.R.V.O. EXAMS.

(*for Rating and Valuation Officers*)

The overwhelming success of these courses has enabled many students to take advantage of the N.C.I. special offer to coach free of cost for the Final Exam. all students who pass the Intermediate with HONOURS.

Start study now for the 1933 *Exam.*

Full descriptive pamphlets sent post free to interested members.

NALGO
Correspondence Institute
24 Abingdon Street, Westminster, S.W.1

A GUARANTEED INCOME

The Association always keeps abreast of the requirements of its members. This is particularly evident in the Insurance Department. The object has always been to give members the very best facilities for personal and domestic insurances, and it can be claimed, without fear of contradiction, that this object has been achieved in the following branches of insurance: Life and Endowment; Fire and Householder's Comprehensive; Fidelity Guarantee; Motor and Motor Cycle; Sick Pay During Illness; National Health and Pensions Benefits.

Recent indications have shown that something more than a Life or Endowment Assurance is necessary to meet the needs of the married man whose responsibilities to his family are heaviest up to age fifty. The payment of a lump sum at his death tides his family over for a limited period. What is wanted is an income in addition to meet essential items of expense which do not cease when the breadwinner is gone. This problem has now been solved in the N.A.L.G.O. Insurance Department and in future a member will be able to take out a Policy which will provide in the event of death occurring within twenty years for the following payments to be made: (1) £200 at death; (2) £3 per week for the remainder of the 20 years and then; (3) a further £800.

PROVISION FOR THE FUTURE

Should the holder not die within twenty years of taking up the policy the sum of £1,000 will be paid out when death does occur. This is an ingenious way of tiding the family over that very difficult period when the children are at the most expensive age for feeding, clothing, and educating.

This policy is not one which can be afforded by the high-salaried official only. On the contrary the reasonable premium is one of its most attractive features. Even so, of course, a Policy giving the benefits mentioned will be beyond the reach of some members, but there will be no difficulty in issuing a Policy for as low as £200 which will provide £40 at death, 12s. per week for the remainder of the twenty years and then a further payment of £160.

The actuary has recently completed his tables of premiums and explanatory literature will be put into the hands of the Local Correspondents as soon as possible. Pending circulation amongst members, Headquarters will be pleased to send quotations to individuals if they will, when writing, state their age next birthday.

The following is a selection from the tables and shows the monthly premium for a £1,000 Policy, i.e., £200 at death, £3 per week, and then £800.:—

Age next birthday	Monthly Premiums £ s. d.
25	1 10 0
30	1 15 0
35	2 4 2
40	2 12 6
45	3 8 4
50	4 8 4
55	5 18 4

"HEDGE YOUR MORTGAGE"

This is the description of another new Policy which has recently been adopted. Any member who has a mortgage on his house can, for a small monthly premium, provide, in the event of his death, for N.A.L.G.O. to pay off the amount still owing to the Building Society so that the deeds of the property can be handed over to his family.

For a mortgage which has still fifteen years to run the following monthly premium is *payable for* 10 *years only* for each £100 of the mortgage remaining unpaid when the policy is taken out:

Age next Birthday	Monthly Premium per £100 s. d.
25	1 2
30	1 3
35	1 5
40	1 8
45	2 2
50	2 9
55	3 9

The scheme is most flexible as it can be applied to a mortgage for any amount and for any terms. Members writing for quotations to suit their own cases should state (1) the present amount still owing, (2) the original terms, (3) the repayments and when they commenced, and (4) the present age next birthday.

ROADS CONSTRUCTION

The first report of the Technical Committee, appointed to advise the Minister of Transport on the experimental work carried out by the Roads Department, has been published by H.M. Stationery Office, and is on sale at the price of 5s. 6d. (post free, 6s.). It covers the period ending December 31, 1930, and deals, not only with the establishment of the experimental road and station at Harmondsworth, Middlesex, and the researches carried out there, but also with other road experiments carried out near London under the control of the Ministry with the co-operation of the Surrey C.C. and representative associations of road material manufacturers. The research work described in the report falls into four principal groups of experiments, namely concrete roads, tar and bituminous surfaces, the skidding of vehicles and impact on roads.

Illustrated by a large number of photographs and diagrams, the report contains information of interest to a wide circle of readers, especially to highway engineers, students of highway engineering and to others concerned in the problems of road construction and maintenance.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICERS

HEADQUARTERS:
24 ABINGDON STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W.1.

WESTON-SUPER-MARE CONFERENCE, 1932

DATES TO REMEMBER

Mar. 1. Return (Form C1) of names and addresses of representatives to Conference to be received at Headquarters by 5 p.m.
" 1. Nominations for election of N.E.C. to be received at Headquarters by 5 p.m. (form EL1).
" 15. Motions for Conference to be received at Headquarters by 5 p.m.
" 15. Nominees for Election of N.E.C. may withdraw up to 5 p.m. on this date.
April 1. Journal will contain Conference Agenda.
" 1. Report of the N.E.C. to be issued to representatives with Agenda.
" 15. Amendments to motions in Conference Agenda to be received by Headquarters by 5 p.m.
" 15. Voting Papers for N.E.C. to be in hands of branch secretaries.
" 23. Voting papers for N.E.C. to be in hands of members.
" 29. Conference Agenda (containing motions and amendments thereto) and list of representatives to be forwarded to representatives.
" 29. Branches desiring to divide voting strength at Conference to notify Headquarters of allocation.
May 1. Voting papers to be in hands of secretary of District Committee by this date.
" 1. Journal will contain amendments to motions in Conference Agenda.
" 2. Counting of votes for N.E.C. commences in each district.
" 14. Whit Saturday. First day of Conference proceedings.
" 16. Whit Monday (Bank Holiday). Second day of Conference proceedings.

N.A.L.G.O. CAMP SONG

Prize of Five Guineas for a Musical Setting.

The Association offers a prize of five guineas for setting to music the words of the N.A.L.G.O. Camp Song which appeared in LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE, January, 1932 (page 343). The music should be appropriate for community singing by visitors at the Association's Holiday Camp at Croyde Bay.

Slight alterations may be made to certain lines in the verses in order that they shall conform to the musical setting.

Competitors may, if they so desire, submit more than one composition. A *nom de plume* should be used in every case, and a slip containing the competitor's name and address should be inserted in a separate envelope bearing the *nom de plume* on the outside.

Compositions should be sent to The General Secretary, N.A.L.G.O., 24 Abingdon Street, Westminster, London, S.W.1, *before the end of February.*

COST OF LIVING

Below we give the average monthly percentage increase over the level of July, 1914, in the Cost of Living Index for the past six months: August, 45; September, 45; October, 45; November, 46; December, 48; January, 47. The percentage increases in each of the five groups on which the Index Figure is based are as follows:

	NOV.	DEC.	JAN.
Food	30	32	32
Rent	54	54	54
Clothing	90	90	90
Fuel and Light ..	75	75	75
Other Items ..	75	75	75

CONGRESS OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES

From May 23 onwards Great Britain will extend her hospitality to representatives of local authorities from many parts of the world, the occasion being the Fifth International Congress of Local Authorities. Like its predecessors at Ghent (1913), Amsterdam (1924), Paris (1925), Seville and Barcelona (1929), the congress, which will take place in London, will bring the local administrative bodies of the world face to face with the whole mass of problems associated with the development of local government. These problems are one and the same for all; the solutions found by one of them are often available for the other, if not in exactly the same form, at any rate after being subjected to the necessary adaptations.

The International Union of Local Authorities, which arose out of the first international congress, has as its object the study of the questions of interest to local life and in pursuance of this aim organises periodically these international congresses. Among others of its activities are the establishment and development of international relations, forming a national bond between the local authorities in each country and an international bond between the national unions. It maintains a permanent office for the collection and dissemination of information on local government affairs.

For particulars of the Sir Arthur Robinson Essay Competition in connection with the Summer School please refer to page 365.

An announcement of the Sister-Tutor Scholarship is made on page 378.

It is only natural that N.A.L.G.O. should wish to identify itself with this organisation and when the congress meets in London N.A.L.G.O.'s representatives will be Mr. S. Lord, the president; Sir Arthur P. Johnson, past president; and Mr. L. Hill, the general secretary.

N.A.L.G.O.

SEA CRUISE

Steamer leaves Liverpool on SATURDAY, 23rd JULY, 1932.

REDUCED FARE
(inclusive of Booking fee and gratuities)

£23

— for 22 days —

Bookings can now be accepted on payment of £1.

Apply to L. Hill, General Secretary, 24 Abingdon Street, Westminster, S.W.1

HEADQUARTERS AND BRANCHES

List of Communications sent from Headquarters to Branches.

DECEMBER 22, 1931

Circular No. 84/Gen.

Enclosing copy correspondence between the Association and the Ministry of Health with reference to the payment by local authorities of the income tax of their officers, the amount to be recovered by a system of deductions from salaries spread over a period.

DECEMBER 31, 1931

Circular No. 85/Gen.

Enclosing copy letter which has been sent to every Member of Parliament (other than members of the Government), and asking the branch secretary to arrange for the member for his district to be approached to see if he can be induced to give a promise that he will take part in the ballot for Private Members' Bills, and if successful to introduce a Bill to deal with any one of the following matters:—

(*a*) Preservation of pension rights of officers whose salaries or wages are temporarily reduced on the grounds of national economy.
(*b*) To remove a number of anomalies which have arisen under the *Superannuation Act* of 1922, particularly since the transfer of the Poor Law Officers.
(*c*) To give effect to the recommendation of the Royal Commission on local government for an amendment of the law so that local authorities may enter into proper contracts of service with their officers.

JANUARY 1

Circular No. 1/Gen.

(*a*) Forwarding complete list showing the decisions of local authorities who dealt with the question of reductions on grounds of national economy during 1931. The list incorporates the information contained in all previous lists.
(*b*) Enclosing extract from a letter from the Ministry of Health addressed to the County Councils Association dealing with important points arising in connection with Circular No. 1222, particularly as regards transferred Poor Law Officers.
(*c*) Enclosing brochure relating to the Croyde Bay Holiday Camp together with application forms; asking for early bookings during the season, which extends from Easter to October 1, 1932.

JANUARY 13

Circular No. 2/Prov.

To local correspondents of the Provident Society informing them that chief officers' certificates will be accepted in lieu of medical certificates from new entrants to the sickness section who are under forty years of age, until further notice.

JANUARY 22

Circular No. 3/Gen.

Enclosing quarterly form on which to return particulars of changes in membership between November 1, 1931, and January 31, 1932.

Circular No. 4/Gen.

(*a*) Giving formal notice of the Annual Conference at Weston-super-Mare on Saturday and Monday, May 14 and 16.
(*b*) Enclosing Form C1 on which to notify the names and addresses of the representative(s) appointed to attend the Conference.
(*c*) Calling attention to the resolution passed at the last Conference providing for contributions towards the railway fares and subsistence allowances of one representative from small branches under certain conditions.
(*d*) Enclosing list of hotel and other accommodation available in Weston-super-Mare.

Circular No. 5/Gen.

(*a*) Setting out a resolution passed by the N.E.C. in 1928 and reaffirmed on January 16, 1932, agreeing with the suggestion of the Electrical Power Engineers' Association that

(*Continued on page 375*)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE

Editorial and Advertisement Offices, 3 and 4 Clement's Inn, Strand, London, W.C.2.

Telephone: Holborn 2288-2289.

Contributions on topical Local Government problems are invited, and will receive careful consideration, but the Editor cannot accept responsibility for the safety of manuscripts submitted for his consideration.

Authoritative local news on matters having more than a purely local interest is welcomed.

Legal and other inquiries relating to Local Government will be answered promptly.

All communications should be addressed to THE EDITOR.

FEBRUARY 1932

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NOTES OF THE MONTH

MR. E. W. B. ABBOTT

UNIVERSAL regret will be expressed at the news that Mr. E. W. B. Abbott is to retire from the Local Government Service, on medical advice, within the next few months. This decision has not been taken by Mr. Abbott without considerable heart-burning, especially as he would have been offered in the near future the highest honour that N.A.L.G.O. could confer upon him—that of the office of President. Mr. Abbott took his seat on the National Executive Council as the elected representative of the South-Eastern District Committee at the annual conference at Blackpool in May, 1918. He was quite naturally placed upon the Examination Committee, as it was then called, and was elected chairman. From that time he has devoted himself mainly to the educational side of the Association's work, and it would be difficult to overestimate the value of Mr. Abbott's labours in this direction. He has been willing to spend and be spent in the interest of N.A.L.G.O.'s educational work. The great consolation to all members of the Association is that he is retiring from the Service whilst the "going is good." There is comfort in the knowledge that a rest only is required to re-establish Mr. Abbott in good health. Everyone will wish Mr. Abbott full compensation by the recovery of health, and will also hope that he may find a "niche" somewhere so that he may remain in touch with N.A.L.G.O. for many years to come.

PARLIAMENTARY SESSION

IT is to be hoped that during the present Session of the Houses of Parliament a measure will be introduced to preserve the pension rights of local government officers whose salaries, or wages, are temporarily reduced on grounds of national economy. Most Local Authorities which have made temporary deductions have agreed that they shall be disregarded in computing the pensions of members of the staffs who may be retired during the period affected by the deductions. Unfortunately, however, the Local Government and Other Officers' Superannuation Act, 1922, and the Poor Law Officers' Superannuation Act, 1896, under which the bulk of the pensions are payable, both provide that the pension shall be computed on the salary actually paid to the employee during his last five years' service. There is, therefore, an urgent need to secure the amendment of those Acts.

A precedent for legislation of this nature is afforded by the Indian Pay (Temporary Abatements) Act, relating to Indian Civil Servants, and which received Royal Assent on December 11, 1931. By that enactment provision is made for abatements from the salaries of certain civil servants, with the proviso that such abatements shall be disregarded in calculating the pensions or gratuities which persons so affected may be entitled to receive. The Government has agreed that the pensions of the police shall not be reduced on account of the reductions in their pay made on the ground of national economy. In addition, the London County Council has decided to seek powers in the ensuing session of Parliament to enable that Authority to disregard any temporary abatements in salaries and wages, made on account of the existing national economic situation, in computing the amount of any pension or gratuity dependent upon pay for which the Council is responsible. Similar legislation is also to be sought on behalf of the Metropolitan Borough Councils which have superannuation schemes under Local Acts of Parliament and an effort is being made by the Association to secure promises from Members of Parliament who take part in the ballot for Private Members' Bills to give their place to the Association and to introduce a Bill to put right this superannuation difficulty.

In the communication to Members of Parliament the Association also refers to other matters which could suitably form the context of Private Members' Bills—the removal of a number of anomalies arising under the Local Government and Other Officers' Superannuation Act, 1922, and the rectification of the legal flaw in the appointment of local government officers, which received prominence by the Brown-*v.*-Dagenham decision. The ballot for Private Members' Bills takes place on February 4 and, although several Members of Parliament have promised to give their place to the Association, so much depends upon the luck of the ballot that we shall have to wait and see what hope there is of taking these important questions one stage further.

HOLIDAYS

THE depreciation of the English pound abroad will, no doubt, have some influence upon the number of persons who take their holidays in foreign countries during 1932, while the tightening up at home on the grounds of economy will make those who stay in England look around for something which suits their purse and the mood of the times. It is false economy to go without a holiday, a fact which most people realise to-day. Those who went to the Association's Holiday Camp at Croyde Bay last year will probably be saying that their difficulties are already solved, and there is every prospect that many more will be thinking the same thing. When we realise that every available inch of space in the camp was occupied last year from the middle of July to the end of September, we can see some members being disappointed unless they can arrange for their holidays to be taken early in the year, or at the latter end of September.

The camp will be open at Easter and all who can take their holidays early would be well advised to do so. The financial disadvantages in taking one's holiday abroad do not apply to the Association's Cruise to Portugal, Morocco, Madeira, and the Canary Islands. Indeed, this year the price is reduced by £2 per head, and it is expected there will be very heavy demands for this most delightful form of holiday. N.A.L.G.O.'s Cruise to the Canary Islands, as it is familiarly called, has been running as a regular feature since 1913, war years excepted, and it is as popular as ever. This year the price is the lowest since the revival of the cruise after the war. As it embodies all the features of a foreign holiday at a price which is probably cheaper than a normal hotel holiday in England, it speaks well for the Association's ability to meet the "needs of the moment."

BRANCH AND DISTRICT NEWS

BANBURY

Banbury Branch, inaugurated in March last, held its first annual meeting at the Town Hall on December 17, 1931. The honorary treasurer's report disclosed a small surplus on the accounts for the past eight months, which was considered satisfactory. Mr. Hunt, Surveyor to the Banbury R.D.C., was elected president for the ensuing year, and Mr. Hilton, the Borough Surveyor, vice-president. The secretary, Mr. W. D. White, and the treasurer, Mr. J. T. Busby, were unanimously re-elected. National economy was discussed, but in the absence of definite proposals from the Councils concerned it was decided to defer the matter. An entertainments committee was appointed under the secretaryship of Mr. Hughes, the Assistant Borough Surveyor, and various forms of its activities were considered.

BARNSLEY

The second annual dinner of the Barnsley Branch was presided over by the president, Mr. A. D. Mason (Town Clerk). There were also present His Worship the Mayor, Councillor R. J. Plummer, J.P.; the Deputy Mayor Councillor R. J. Soper, M.P., J.P.; and Councillor E. Sheerien together with Messrs. H. Taylor, Borough Surveyor; J. R. Fox, Waterworks Engineer; E. A. Barker, Electrical Engineer; W. H. Rock, Borough Accountant; P. W. H. Taylor, Librarian, and about sixty members of the branch.

Musical items were given by Messrs. W. Chadwick, alto; W. Slater, baritone; T. Hobson, bass; F. E. Gibson, accompanist, and Miss Duncan.

BATH

One hundred members attended the annual meeting of the Bath Branch, held at the Red House on December 9.

At the termination of the business, the N.A.L.G.O. Putting Cup was presented to Mr. W. E. Eyles, of the Town Clerk's Department. Mr. Barrow, of the Engineer's Department, was the runner-up in this competition. Then there followed a presentation to Mr. H. Hunter, honorary secretary and treasurer of the social committee, of a handsome walnut bureau and a cheque in recognition of his eleven years' service as an official.

"1932"

A unique episode marked the arrival of the New Year at the N.A.L.G.O. Dance in aid of the B. & O. Fund at the Guildhall, Bath.

The New Year came from the mouth of a loud-speaker, which contained a human cargo.

Approaching midnight, the lights were dimmed and the only thing showing was the loud-speaker, from which a voice, on behalf of N.A.L.G.O., wished everyone a happy new year. On the last stroke of twelve the front of the loud-speaker opened; the scene was flooded with light, and five girls, each wearing massive hats bearing one letter of N.A.L.G.O., and carrying big letters signifying "1932," stepped out. The episode was appreciated by the large assembly, and it is hoped that the B. & O. Fund will benefit considerably by the effort.

Mr. W. Roberts, chairman; Mr. Harry Hunter, honorary secretary and treasurer, Social Committee; Miss Nesta Lapham, Mr. Horace Jones, branch secretary, Mr. R. O. Jones, Mr. S. F. Adams, Mr. F. W. Payne, Mr. C. J. Pring, Mr. H. S. Baker, Mr. H. L. Hacker, branch treasurer, Mr. E. J. Bishop and Mr. S. White shared the arrangements.

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS

Organising and Branch Secretaries are requested to send "copy" to reach the Editor by February 20, for the March issue.

News of events which take place later—up to February 21—can be inserted if correspondents will send an intimation to the Editor beforehand.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE,
3 and 4 Clement's Inn, W.C.2.

BLACKPOOL

The annual report of the Blackpool Branch, recently published, shows a slight increase in membership. The officers appeal for the unanimous backing of the staff to help them to negotiate the anxious times through which they are passing. By the efforts of the Social Committee £95 has been received to the credit of the Benevolent and Orphan Fund. Local membership of the N.A.L.G.O. Provident Society has increased to 86.

The honorary treasurer's statement of accounts, which forms part of the report, shows an excess of income over expenditure for the year of £13 19s. 10d., which, when added to the surplus in hand at the commencement of the year, makes the available balance on revenue account £123 2s. 3d. The Benevolent and Orphan Fund (Conference) Suspense Account has been credited with the sum of £249 0s. 8½d., and out of that amount £76 14s. 5d. has been remitted to headquarters as the branch donation, leaving £172 6s. 3½d. to be added to the balance in hand at the commencement of the year making the total available balance at the close of the year £607 17s.

THE OLDHAM BRANCH AT DINNER

BOLTON

As a result of the branch's recent dance at the Palais-de-Danse, Bolton, the B. & O. Fund will benefit to the extent of £4. The arrangements were in the hands of Miss Mabel Mann (Social Secretary) and Mr. J. G. Harrop (Social Chairman).

At the annual meeting of the Bolton Branch all the officers were re-elected. The meeting was addressed by Mr. J. W. Wilkinson (N.E.C.), and refreshments and musical items contributed to a very successful gathering.

BOOTLE

At the annual meeting of the Bootle Branch held in the Town Hall on December 21, Mr. C. A. W. Roberts, a member of the National Executive, in a resume of the various N.A.L.G.O. activities, made a plea to the younger members of the branch to avail themselves of the educational facilities offered by the Association. He complimented the branch on a membership of 93 per cent. and urged the few non-members remaining to join.

The Mayor assured the meeting of his whole-hearted sympathy with the aims and aspirations of the Association. The report of the honorary secretary indicated progress in all branches of the Association's work in the borough, while the financial statement of the honorary treasurer showed a satisfactory position.

The following officers were re-elected: Mr. Samuel Clarke (Secretary for Education), president; Mr. Daniel Williams (Dept. Borough Treasurer), vice-president; Mr. H. A. Brown, O.B.E., honorary secretary; Miss M. M. Thompson, assistant honorary secretary; Mr. G. A. McCulloch, honorary treasurer; Mr. G. C. Meakin and Mr. R. G. Jones, honorary auditors.

BRADFORD

The twenty-second annual ball of the Bradford Branch, held in the Queen's Hall on January 8, was enjoyed by a large company of members and friends. Alderman S. Horsfall, J.P., in the absence of the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, Alderman G. Walker, J.P., and Mrs. Walker, both of whom were unfortunately suffering from illness, received the guests. Mr. F. Marsden, president of the branch, extended a welcome to the visitors, Alderman W. Illingworth suitably replying.

BRIDLINGTON

Bridlington Branch of the N.A.L.G.O. held its annual re-union and dinner on January 1, at Taylor's Cafe. There were present the Mayor and Mayoress of Bridlington, Mr. J. A. Dew, J.P., and Mrs. Dew, Mr. H. Harker, Deputy Mayor, and an excellent representation of members. The president, Mr. G. Melvin, Town Clerk, presided. The usual toasts having been disposed of, the retiring president, Mr. W. M. Brown, was the recipient of a silver cigarette case, presented to him by Mr. Melvin, the incoming president. The "Bridlington Cup" was in a prominent position at the head of the table, and many references were made to it and the B. & O. Fund during the evening. A congratulatory telegram was sent to Sir A. P. Johnson on the honour conferred upon him by His Majesty.

A dance followed.

CAMBRIDGE

Reference to the annual report [illegible] issued by the Cambridge Branch of N.A.L.G.O. [illegible] many indications of the expansion [illegible] business. As an record membership of [illegible] twelve new members were enrolled bringing the branch a little nearer the 100 per cent. mark which is its aim. The Benevolent and Orphan Fund continues to receive the sympathetic help

CANADIAN SECTION OLYMPIA

STAND 18-19

Always something worth seeing at the WATERMAN exhibit!

Intending visitors to the British Industries Fair at Olympia (February 22 to March 3) should make a special note to see the Waterman exhibit in the CANADIAN Section, where pens in almost "infinite variety" will be on show. There will be plain pens in black, pens with gold bands, pens covered in gold and silver, pens in quiet tones and pens in the smartest and gayest of colours.

Whether a pen be needed for personal use or for gift purposes, one can readily find something in the Waterman range to suit exactly.

Four of the latest coloured models are shown here in reduced sizes. Ask especially to see the new £1 Pen in alizar crimson and gold, also electric green and gold. Pencils to match every Waterman's pen.

Writing sets, 20s. 6d. to £50, beautifully cased for presentation.

Desk stands in ultra-modern styles, 32s. 6d. to £50.

You are cordially invited to see the Waterman Exhibit at Olympia. If unable to do so ask any stationer or jeweller to show you Waterman's EMPIRE-MADE Pens.

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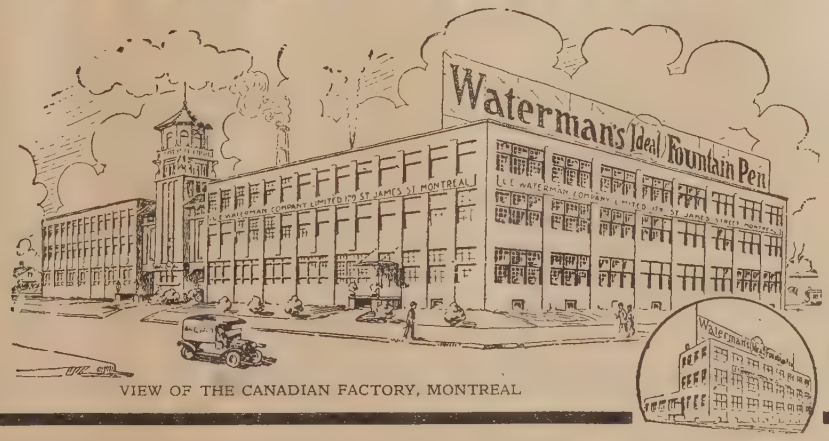

VIEW OF THE CANADIAN FACTORY, MONTREAL

BRANCH & DISTRICT NEWS

of the branch members, the branch contributing, during the year, the sum of £18 1s. 8d., an average of 4s. 4d. per head. Thrift is being encouraged through the Thrift Club, which, commenced during the year and had proved an outstanding success, full advantage having been taken of the opportunities offered. A scheme of voluntary temporary deductions in salaries had been formulated after discussion between the county and the borough branches.

CASTLEFORD

A prominent feature of the annual meeting of the Castleford and District Branch, and one which cannot be too highly commended, was that the accounts for the year were sent to Head Office on November 2. There were no arrears.

CHESTER

The third annual dinner of the Chester City Branch was held on January 8. The President, Mr. C. E. Greenwood, City Surveyor, occupied the chair. The Mayor, the Sheriff, Chairman of the Finance Committee, Alderman E Green, and the D.O.S. were amongst the guests. Proposing the toast of the Association, Alderman Green paid tribute to the efficiency of the officials. The Finance Committee was grateful to them for their action in the national crisis. The D.O.S., Mr. Haden Corser, replied. Musical items were given by the following members of the branch: Miss Megan Jones (soloist), Mr. Alby Hull (violinist), and Mr. M. Lindsay Taylor (accompanist).

CLITHEROE

The fifth annual dinner and ball was held at the Swan and Royal Hotel on New Year's Eve, when a company of 125 members and friends spent a very enjoyable evening.

COLCHESTER

At the annual Christmas party organised by the Colchester Branch of N.A.L.G.O. a large and happy gathering assembled. The occasion was notable for the presentation to Mr. Harry E. Isom, who for seven years carried out the duties of secretary of the branch and who recently retired from the office, of a handsome canteen of cutlery as a token of his fellow-members' appreciation of his loyal services. The presentation was made by the Mayoress of Colchester, Mrs. G. W. B. Hazell. That the branch had grown from a sickly child into a healthy body is largely due to Mr. Harry Isom. The Deputy Mayor, Councillor W. C. Harper, congratulated the members on the fine spirit they had shown in materially recognising the ability and enthusiasm of a loyal official, and Mr. Isom expressed his gratification and assured his fellow-members that he would always have their interests at heart.

DONCASTER

The annual meeting of the Doncaster Branch of N.A.L.G.O. was held at Springwell House, about sixty-five members attending. Tea was provided by the staff at the institution.

Progress was reported in all directions and the branch is looking forward to a successful year under the guidance of its newly elected officers.

MR. G. RHODES, Manchester, for many years honorary secretary of the N.W. District Regional B. & O. Fund. He has retired

DUDLEY

A most successful New Year's Eve Ball, organised by the Dudley Branch in aid of the B. & O. Fund, will mean a substantial contribution to the fund.

EDMONTON

The eleventh annual dinner and dance of the Edmonton Branch was held at the Midland Grand Hotel on January 9. Mr. J. E. Rumney presided over a record attendance, supported by the clerk to the council and chief officers. Mr. Chalmers, M.P., proposed the toast of "N.A.L.G.O." to which Mr. Slater suitably responded. Mr. Claxton (president) proposed "The Visitors" and County Cr. H. Barras, J.P., replying, referred to the good relationship existing between the council and the staff.

GLAMORGAN

The annual report of the Glamorgan Branch [illegible] another year of keen and active work. The membership is now about [illegible] increase of [illegible] over last year. Mr. T. G. Mid[illegible] chairman, and Mr. J. E. N. Davis, D.O.S., addressed a representative meeting of [illegible] assistant officers at Bridgend on January [illegible] It is hoped this propaganda will lead to a substantial increase in membership there.

HALIFAX

At the annual dinner of the Halifax Branch the Mayor, Alderman R. Stirk, J.P., was present together with Mr. J. B. Swinden, D.O.S. At the annual meeting which followed, Mr. Sneezum was elected president for the ensuing year in place of Dr. R. Davidson. Dr. Davidson was handed a life membership certificate of the B. & O. Fund. In acknowledgement, he tressed his interest in the work of the organisation.

HARROGATE

Harrogate Branch held its annual whist drive and dance at the Winter Gardens on November 25, a record number of officials and their friends attending. After supper, the Mayoress, Mrs. Lambert Foster, presented the whist prizes, and was accorded a hearty vote of thanks by Mr. W. E. C. Jalland, Director of Education, and Mr. L. H. Clark, Deputy Borough Engineer. In reply, the Mayor spoke of the good feeling which existed between council and officials. He paid a special tribute to Mr. Clarke for his work in connection with the new municipal offices.

HEYWOOD

The annual dinner of the Heywood and District Branch was held at the Freemasons' Arms Hotel on December 2. The President, Mr. Jas. Gee, was supported by the Mayor, Councillor W. Duckworth, J.P., Alderman E. Booth, J.P., Mr. J. W. Singleton, Mr. A. E. Mahon, Mr. J. E. Cropper, and Mr. C. H. Diggle, late hon. secretary of the branch.

The Mayor, replying to the toast proposed by Mr. C. H. Diggle, said he had no hesitation in acknowledging that the utmost confidence did exist between corporation and officials. He had made himself acquainted with the aims of their Association, and he congratulated them upon its influence.

Mr. J. W. Singleton, of Accrington, a member of the N.E.C., replying to a toast on behalf of the Association, briefly summarised the various activities of N.A.L.G.O., laying particular emphasis upon the question of superannuation.

In submitting a report at the annual meeting of the branch, Mr. Diggle announced that a hundred per cent. membership had been maintained throughout the year and every member had paid his or her subscription. There were thirty-three members of the Approved Society and all members were subscribing to the B. and O. Fund. No progress had been made regarding superannuation. The Member of Parliament for the Division (Mr. I. C. Jackson, K.C.) had promised support, but economic conditions rendered it unwise to make further attempts.

THE

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BRANCH & DISTRICT NEWS

HUDDERSFIELD

Mr. L. Hill, the General Secretary and the D.O.S., attended the annual meeting of the Huddersfield branch. A very complete and exhaustive report was printed and issued to every member. This branch has very nearly 100 per cent. membership.

HULL

The Hull Branch has published its annual report, which runs to thirteen pages of closely printed matter. The City Council, it states, has approved the adoption of a grade of salaries for women clerks and shorthand typists over the age of twenty-one. There has been an increase of members of approximately seventy during the year, the total now standing at 407.

ILFORD

Mr. L. E. J. Reynolds, M.C., the Borough Engineer and Surveyor, was elected President at the annual general meeting of the Ilford Branch held on November 27. Mr. D. J. Reason, the Deputy Town Clerk, was re-elected Chairman, and Messrs. B. Lawson and A. H. C. Bates, hon. secretary and hon. treasurer. A comprehensive report by the Executive Committee showed a satisfactory increase in membership during the year. Reference was made to branch activities, particularly its participation in the various competitions organised by the Association.

IPSWICH

Ipswich Branch's annual meeting was held at the Town Hall, Ipswich, on December 4, when the following officers were elected: Mr. L. W. Greenhalgh, president; Mr. A. E. Wiglesworth, hon. treasurer; Messrs. T. W. Wilkinson and Reginald Calver, hon. auditors; Mr. Jas. E. Jennings, hon. secretary. The meeting was addressed by Mr. H. Slater, D.O.S.

IRLAM

Irlam Branch held its annual social function on December 29, a dinner at the New Continental Restaurant, Manchester, being followed by attendance at the Paramount Theatre. The Chairman of the Council, Councillor F. J. Melville, was present as a guest of the branch. Remarks appropriate to the occasion were made by the president, Mr. F. Exley (Rating and Valuation Officer), and responded to by Councillor Melville.

KEIGHLEY

As a result of the action taken by the Association, with regard to temporary deductions of staff salaries, the Keighley Branch unanimously resolved that a special grant of five guineas be made to the Benevolent and Orphan Fund.

LEEDS

Attention is directed in the report of the executive committee of the Leeds Branch to the question of salaries and conditions of service. Reference is made to the fact that as a result of the branch's intervention through the Local Joint Committee, an increased maximum was obtained for Assistant Relieving Officers. In the case of Relieving Officers, however, the branch has not, up to the present, been successful. A number of individual cases had been considered by the Joint Committee, with successful results.

LICHFIELD

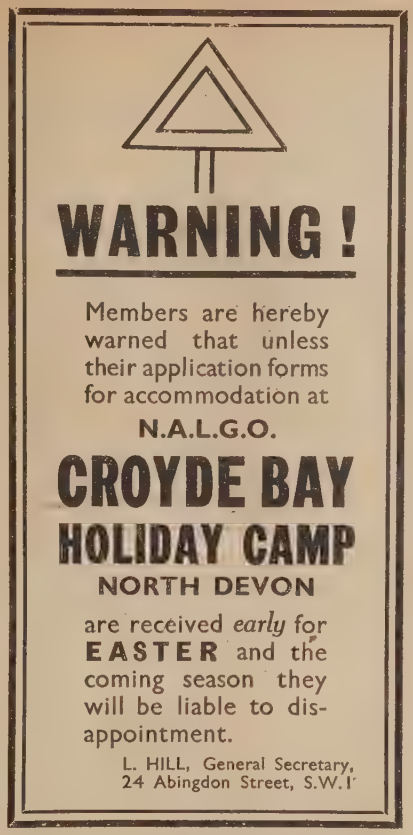
At a recent annual meeting of the Lichfield Branch the following officers were elected: Mr. Thomas Moseley, president and chairman; Mr. Norman Auty, vice-president; Mr. G. K. Pullen, honorary treasurer; Mr. S. M. Collins, honorary secretary. A vote of thanks was accorded to the retiring president, Mr. W. Brocksom, for his services during the past two years.

LINDSEY (LINCS.)

Lindsey County Officers' Branch of N.A.L.G.O. has recently added to its activities by the formation of a Literary and Debating Society. The "motion" before the "house" at the first debate, held on January 5, was "That the effect of modern social legislation will be to produce a supine race." Mr. J. A. Chatterton took the affirmative viewpoint and was seconded by Mr. S. G. Clarke, while the opposition was led by Mr. H. Copland, seconded by Mr. R. A. Pearson. Subsequent discussion was keen and the motion lost by a large majority. The debate was presided over by Mr. Eric W. Scorer, the Clerk of the County Council, and the large attendance augurs well for the future.

At the annual general meeting on November 30, the following officers were elected: Mr. Eric W. Scorer, president; Messrs. A. G. Bradshaw, H. G. Gamble, G. C. Tong, N. Wailes, Dr. W. S. H. Campbell, vice-presidents; Mr. W. G. Key, chairman; Mr. C. E. Gamble, vice-chairman; Mr. L. D. Birkett, hon. secretary; Mr. A. F. Gibson, assistant hon. secretary; Mr. C. R. Atkin, hon. treasurer; Mr. W. Gibson and Mr. S. Milner, hon. auditors; Mr. S. R. Posnett, B. & O. Fund secretary; Mr. C. Dawson, Approved Society correspondent; Mr. C. H. Smith, Provident Society correspondent; Mr. A. Pogson, Education correspondent.

Regret was expressed that there were still some officers who have not yet joined the Association, and the hon. secretary was requested to communicate with them. The hon. treasurer reported a balance in hand of over £62.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CROYDE BAY
HOLIDAY CAMP
NORTH DEVON
are received early for EASTER and the coming season they will be liable to disappointment.
L. HILL, General Secretary,
24 Abingdon Street, S.W.1

MEXBOROUGH

Mr. B. Corbridge presided at the annual dinner of the Mexborough and District Branch, held on December 19. Several councillors were present. It was announced that as a result of two dances during last season, the sum of £31 had been forwarded to the B. & O. Fund. Mr. F. Marsden, City Engineer of Bradford, and Mr. J. B. Swinden, D.O.S., spoke on the work of the Association.

MIDDLESBROUGH

The annual report of the Middlesbrough Branch gives emphasis to much important work dealt with during the year. The annual dinner was presided over by Mr. C. F. Blinco, Gas Manager, supported by the Chairman of the Finance Committee. The Town Clerk, Borough Treasurer, Director of Education and about 150 members and friends attended.

NEWCASTLE

Newcastle Branch's report contains a resume of the work of the Association during the past twelve months. Membership, which is now 559, indicates a slight increase over that of last year.

NORTH-EASTERN DISTRICT

A meeting of the North-Eastern District Committee was held on December 12, at the Shire Hall, Durham.

Mr. J. H. Stone occupied the chair, and Mr. Peter Lee, Chairman of the Durham C.C., was present and extended a hearty welcome to the delegates.

Mr. Lee, in commending the work and responsibilities of local government officers, referred reminiscently to the enormous extension of local government activities during recent years. He traced particularly the growth of the social services in County Durham and referred to their beneficent effect upon the home life of the people. He was glad to learn of the enormous growth of the Association and he wished it continued success.

A comprehensive report as to the position in the north-eastern area was made by Mr. J. B. Swinden, the D.O.S., and details of numerous interviews with local authorities were given. The officers of the District Committee were elected for the ensuing year.

At the conclusion of the meeting the delegates were entertained to tea at the Club House by the Durham County Officers' Branch, who were heartily thanked for their hospitality.

NORTHUMBERLAND

The membership of the Northumberland County Officers' Branch has risen during the year from 216 to 257. A Dramatic Society has been formed and the People's Theatre booked for two nights during the season. Reports by the chairman and secretary indicate that the branch is in a flourishing condition.

NORTH-WEST DURHAM

A well-attended meeting of the North-West Durham Branch was held in the Public Library, Annfield Plain, on Monday, January 11. Mr. J. B. Swinden, D.O.S., and Mr. V. Grainger, Secretary of the District Committee, were present and their addresses on the current position greatly appreciated. A hundred per cent. membership of the B. & O. Fund reported.

OLDBURY

After considering Circular 1222, the General Purposes Committee at Oldbury recommended the Council to adopt certain temporary deductions. These deductions were considered to be too high by the officials and at their request Mr. J. E. N. Davis addressed a communication to the Council, urging that the proposals should be referred back. The Council acceded to the application and after two meetings with the General Purposes Committee a satisfactory agreement has been effected.

RHYL

The annual meeting of the Rhyl Branch took place at the Council Offices on November 16, Mr. E. B. Wright presiding. Mr. J. D. Jones, Secretary, read his report on the year's workings. The membership was 48, an increase on previous records.

It was decided to allocate £3 3s. to each of the local hospitals after hearing the statement of accounts presented by Mr. G. T. Linnell, treasurer.

Mr. Robert Lowe, Sanitary Inspector, was elected President of the Branch; Mr. E. B. Wright, Electrical Engineer, re-elected Chair-

BRANCH & DISTRICT NEWS

man: Mr. J. Douglas Jones, Hon. Secretary; and Mr. G. T. Linnell, Hon. Treasurer. The following were elected on the Executive Committee: Messrs. P. Williams, O. P. Cronshaw, A. E. Edwards, I. P. Williams, W. Davies, Maurice Jones, and F. Arthur. Mr. W. Davies was re-elected Press Representative.

The third annual dinner of the branch took place at the Westminster Hotel on November 17. Mr. Robert Lowe presided. There were present a large number of Councillors as guests of the branch. The toast of the N.A.L.G.O. was proposed by Councillor J. P. Clews, who referred to the advance the Association had made since 1905. To-day it had a membership of sixty-five thousand. He wished the Association every success. Councillor Edward Hughes, supporting the toast, said he was confident the officials were out to do their best for the town as well as to improve their own status.

Mr. E. B. Wright responded. The aims and objects of the Association were laudable ones, he said. It fostered good fellowship between the various departments and between Councillors and officials. The N.A.L.G.O. interest was the Council interest.

Mr. J. D. Jones also responded. He said that one of the objects of the Association was to secure the best men for public service, men who were fully equipped for the position, who would ensure that the work was carried out to the satisfaction of the Council.

RUGBY

Mr. D. E. Biart, Clerk, and president of the Rugby Branch, presided over the second annual dinner. Councillor C. J. Newman, chairman of the Rugby U.D.C., and Councillor E. J. Appleby, chairman of the Rugby R.D.C., were among the guests. Mr. J. E. N. Davis congratulated both councils on the extensions of their area, and on the very amicable and efficient manner in which the arrangements had been made.

In response, Councillor Newman said that during the two years he had been chairman, everyone, from the lowest to the highest, had done his very best to help and he appreciated their services.

Councillor F. M. Burton considered the branch should have 100-per-cent. membership. Possibly some officials thought they were underpaid, but what they had secured by way of service conditions they had chiefly to thank the Association for.

SHEFFIELD

The second annual reception, carnival ball and whist drive of the Sheffield Branch was attended by over seven hundred visitors. Guests were received by the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, Alderman and Mrs. T. H. Watkins, and several members of the Council were also present.

The arrangements reflected great credit upon those who had undertaken the task.

STRETFORD

There was a record attendance at the annual meeting of the Stretford Branch, held at the Council Offices, Old Trafford, on December 4. Mr. Hill, the general secretary of the association, gave an address which was encouraging to all present. The annual report recorded a membership of 156, an increase of 11, and record contributions from the branch to the B. & O. Fund.

Mr. J. Hindle occupied the chair and was re-elected president. Mr. J. Young and Mr. A. Vernon were also re-elected as honorary secretary and honorary treasurer respectively.

STOKE-ON-TRENT

The annual New Year's Eve Dance at Stoke-on-Trent was again a magnificent success and will substantially benefit the B. & O. Fund. The Lord Mayor, Alderman Miss F. A. Farmer; the Deputy Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, Alderman and Mrs. H. J. Colclough, and Alderman and Mrs. H. Leese were guests.

Mr. E. B. Sharpley, Town Clerk and president of the branch, presided over the annual dinner, when the principal guest was Mr. S. Lord, N.A.L.G.O.'s president. The dinner was well attended and in every way a success.

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FAIR—WIGAN

Mr. Henry Fair, Superintendent of the Cleansing Department, Wigan, retired on superannuation at the end of last month and the good wishes of many local government officers will go with him.

After fourteen years as labourer, fireman, blacksmith, tinsmith and occasional clerk, he was appointed as outdoor inspector and held that position until 1926 (twenty-three years) when he was appointed superintendent.

Mr. Fair's successor is Mr. W. Smith, who is at present with the Hull City Corporation.

Mr. Fair has held the office of honorary secretary to the Wigan Branch of N.A.L.G.O. for twelve years and during that time he has made

(*Continued foot of Col. 3*)

SUNDERLAND

A [illegible] increase in membership, which now stands at 307, was reported at the annual meeting of the Sunderland Branch. Reference was made to the retirement during the year, on superannuation, of Mr. P. M. Greenwood, as past president of the branch, and to his strenuous and successful efforts to induce the Council to adopt the Superannuation Act and a salaries and grading scheme. On his departure, Mr. Greenwood was presented with a wallet and cheque. The branch had forwarded to the Mayor a cheque for £30 towards the provision of boots for necessitous children in the borough.

Reference was made to the Grading of Relief Clerks, Relieving Officers, and staff at the Highfield Institution and Municipal Hospital. A deputation had attended before the Public Assistance Committee without success. During the year £87 1s. 5d. had been contributed towards the funds of the following institutions:—Royal Infirmary, £50; Monkwearmouth and Southwick Hospital, £30; Sunderland and Durham County Eye Infirmary, £7 1s. 5d.

ISLE OF THANET

Continued progress is shown by the Isle of Thanet Branch, increased membership and stimulated interest being evident by the report presented at the annual meeting recently. In salary deductions, the members consider themselves not too unfortunate, in that each of the authorities within its area have adopted moderate scales, due in large measure to representations by the staffs. The New Year social just held proved the usual success.

TYNEMOUTH

It was reported at the annual meeting of the Tynemouth Branch that the fully paid membership for last year was 218. Mr. C. C. Henderson, Town Clerk, presided over the meeting, which was well attended.

WAKEFIELD

A large attendance was recorded at the annual meeting of the Wakefield County Borough Branch, many important matters affecting the interests of the members being discussed. Mr. T. M. Grimshaw, Town Clerk, was elected president for the ensuing year.

WALLSEND

At the annual meeting of the Wallsend Branch of N.A.L.G.O., Mr. Storer resigned the secretaryship of the branch, having been appointed Cleansing Superintendent of Gateshead. Mr. E. J. Gray, of the Surveyor's Department, was appointed as his successor. Mr. W. Johnson was installed as president for the ensuing year.

WARWICK

Mr. Percy Coy presided over a meeting of the Warwick County Relieving Officers' Association at Warwick on January 9, when it was unanimously decided to constitute the Association a branch of N.A.L.G.O. from February 1. Mr. J. C. Keen, Sutton Coldfield, will act as honorary secretary, and Mr. E. M. Coy, Warwick, as honorary treasurer.

WATERLOO

The fourteenth annual branch dinner was held at the Blundellsands Hotel, Blundellsands, on December 11, 1931. The president, Mr. G. S. Dewhirst, was well supported by his officers and members from the respective areas. Musical items were rendered by Dr. V. J. Pr[illegible], Mus. Doc., Miss E. M. Brunskill, Messrs. David Reubens, C. H. Huntley, and A. Lloyd Jones (the hon. secretary). Mr. T. G. R. Reynolds ably officiated at the piano.

a wide circle of friends in the Association. He has attended each annual conference of the Association since 1918, with one exception, and during most of the time has held the unofficial office of "President's Sergeant." Each year the conference has awaited the stentorian preliminary announcement—"Fair, Wigan"—with pleasurable expectancy.

WEST HAM

Two hundred and forty children, their ages ranging from five to fourteen, were entertained at the Town Hall recently by the West Ham Branch of N.A.L.G.O. A sumptuous tea was followed by an entertainment which delighted every one of the little guests. Later, the Mayor addressed the gathering and incidentally congratulated N.A.L.G.O. upon the work it was doing. The arrangements for the party were carried out by Mr. D. McDougall, chairman; Dr. Collins and Mr. C. A. J. Hunter, vice-presidents; Mr. J. B. Vincent, Mr. B. T. Dear, Mr. C. J. S. Whipps, Mr. H. G. Hunter, and Mr. C. A. Crane.

WEST HARTLEPOOL

The Town Clerk, Mr. H. W. Stanton, was appointed president of the West Hartlepool Branch, with Messrs. H. E. Blackiston, F. Durkin, R. D. Lambert, R. C. Linney, and G. E. Usher as vice-presidents.

In the annual report reference was made to the interviews which the D.O.S. had had with the Council regarding increments under the grading scheme, and also to the question of national economy. There has been a slight increase of membership.

WEST MIDLANDS

Mr. C. S. Fothergill, Public Assistance Officer, Walsall, has been elected a vice-president of the West Midland District Committee.

WHITBY

The annual meeting and dinner of the Whitby Branch was its usual success. Mr. O. E. Graham, the retiring chairman, was succeeded by Mr. J. W. Piggott. Mr. T. H. Rodgers was re-appointed honorary secretary and Mr. W. Mothersdale, honorary treasurer. Councillors Sawdon, chairman of the Whitby U.D.C.; M. Blenkey, vice-chairman, and M. Simpson, chairman of the General Purposes Committee, were among the guests at the annual dinner. The company afterwards participated in a whist drive.

WORCESTER

At the annual general meeting of the Worcester City Branch, Mr. H. Hacking, City Treasurer, was elected president. Pleasure was expressed at the growth in branch membership, and it was decided to recruit other officials who are non-members.

YORKSHIRE

About 110 delegates attended the meeting of the Yorkshire District Committee held at the Town Hall, Leeds, on December 19, Mr. F. Marsden presiding.

Based on the returns received from branches, an increased membership of approximately 1,000 is indicated. The West Riding County Officers' Branch has returned an increase of 253; Sheffield, 147; Leeds, 143; Hull, 69; making the respective membership of those branches 1,107, 1,740, 1,300, and 407.

Superannuation, it was reported, had not made the progress which was hoped for. There were, however, six small authorities which had adopted the 1922 Act. Despite the economy campaign, the question of compulsion is not being lost sight of.

SCOTTISH NEWS

By the D.O.S.

To go back to December 19 seems a long cry, but owing to Christmas holidays, "copy" had to be sent in specially early for last month's issue and the report of the annual meeting of our Scottish District Committee, held at Edinburgh, was not mentioned. The annual report submitted showed that although a great many part-time officials had lost their appointments and had in consequence been lost to the Association, the membership had increased by about two hundred over the previous year. Extensive extracts from the report have been printed in *The Scottish N.A.L.G.O.* and no further reference to it is here necessary. All the office-bearers were re-appointed and the sub-committees re-constituted.

DUNDEE

Dundee Branch had to face quite a new problem in the first week of the year. A committee of the Corporation proposed that women be substituted for men in the Education Department. This would mean that, in future, the clerical staff would consist wholly of women. The D.O.S. appeared at the public meeting of Council in opposition to the minute. He stated that, while the Association had no desire to raise a sex war, they did very strongly object to the minute because it proposed to employ women on much lower grades of salary than those of the men. The proposals meant a definite lowering of the conditions of service in an important department and he was perfectly sure that if the proposals were carried into effect they would discover that a great mistake had been made. A long discussion ended in the Council ultimately passing the minute.

EDINBURGH

Trouble arose recently over the interpretation of the agreement entered into between the Corporation and the Association as to salary cuts, particularly with regard to those on the new entrants' scale. The D.O.S. interviewed the sub-committee appointed to deal with such questions, and came to an understanding whereby all the typists and certain members of the staffs on other grades were exempt from the cuts. In practice, all those whose salaries do not exceed £120 will be exempt.

GLASGOW

On January 12 Mr. W. P. Fox, accompanied by Mr. Archibald, Mr. Brodie and Mr. Mortimer, interviewed the Salaries and Wages Committee with reference to proposed cuts on salaries recommended by a sub-committee. The recommendations were to the effect that a 5-per-cent. cut be made on all salaries over £130 and under £500, 7½ per cent. in the salaries of officials with from £500 to £1,000, and 10 per cent. in the salaries of officials receiving from £1,000 to £2,000. Mr. Fox, on behalf of the Association, stated that looking at the history of the salary question in Glasgow, there seemed no case for any cut being made, but if the Corporation were determined to make deductions, he proposed that the first £175 of any salary be exempt from the cut and that all sums above that figure be subject to a cut of 5 per cent. The committee's recommendations were adopted. The executive of the branch is meeting to consider further opposition.

STIRLINGSHIRE

The annual meeting of the Stirlingshire Branch was held on December 22, when Mr. Alex. Morrison, Town Clerk of Bridge of Allan, presided. The D.O.S. addressed the meeting and answered a number of questions. A discussion ensued with regard to the institution of a Diploma in Public Administration. Mr. Morrison strongly supported the idea of the setting up of a Scottish Examinations Board. The position of the County Council staffs was also discussed and it was agreed that the matter be further looked into

OBITUARY

Those of our members who have been in the habit of going on the N.A.L.G.O. cruise to the Canary Islands will regret to learn of the death of Mr. Robert Morton, of Dundee. He was very popular amongst his fellow passengers. Mr. Morton died with tragic suddenness, following a seizure while out walking. He is survived by his wife and family for whom much sympathy is felt.

HEADQUARTERS & BRANCHES

(*Continued from page* 368)

N.A.L.G.O. and its local branches should recognise the schedule of the National Joint Board of Employers and Members of Staffs (Electricity Supply Industry) as the scale of salaries appropriate to members of the technical staffs of Electricity Departments.

(*b*) Asking branches to consider the possibility of organising parties to stay in the Croyde Bay Camp from the opening on March 24 for Easter, Whitsuntide or local holidays and the early part of the season, when bookings can be accepted at the daily rate of 7s.

(*c*) Giving details of the twenty-two days' sea cruise commencing from Liverpool on July 23, 1932; berths can now be reserved on payment of a booking fee of £1 on account of the new reduced fare of £23.

(*d*) Asking that orders for the N.A.L.G.O. Holiday Guide, which will be on sale on March 7, may be obtained from members and a bulk order placed with the printers.

(*e*) Giving an analysis of the list of decisions of local authorities in connection with Circular 1222 and intimating that the issue of periodical lists has been discontinued.

(*f*) Forwarding a specimen of a whist scoring card, supplies of which can be obtained, gratis, on application to Headquarters.

Circular No. 6/Education.

Giving details of the Summer Schools arranged at Cambridge and St. Andrews.

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(*Continued in column 2*)

OLDHAM MUNICIPAL GUILD

History of the Oldham Municipal Officers' Guild, 1899-1931. By H. N. Smawfield. In this admirably compiled volume the essential incidents in the rise of the Oldham Municipal Officers' Guild have been collected from records of the branch dating back to April, 1899, and reproduced in chronological order, war years, of course, excluded. If Mr. Smawfield's intention was to revive old memories he has succeeded admirably, for there must be many now serving in other parts of the country who were at one time with the Oldham Corporation, who will read with interest the fare provided. It is to be hoped some means will be found of locating past officers and passing this history on to them.

The guild, it seems, dates back to April of '99, and owes its origin to one, Mr. C. E. Dyer, the Borough Accountant, who was shortly afterwards to transfer his sphere of work to Belfast.

The entries for 1903 throw some light on the evolution of N.A.L.G.O. itself, for it was at about this time that the Municipal Officers' Association affiliated itself to the national organisation. Years of negotiation with the Corporation for superannuation privileges, salary scales and improved service conditions are faithfully recorded.

TESSERETE, LUGANO.—This new W.T.A. Centre is excellently suited for short holidays as well as for visitors in search of health and strength. A delightful spot in a beautiful sheltered and mild position—fog unknown. Every modern convenience and low, definitely inclusive terms. Literature from the W.T.A., Ltd. (M), Transport House, Smith Square, London, S.W.1.

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CORRESPONDENCE

N.A.L.G.O. SUBSCRIPTIONS

The Editor, LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE.

SIR,—I agree very cordially with "Camera Principis" that the N.A.L.G.O. subscription is far too high in these days. I pay 26s. on a salary of less than £200 a year, and I am certain many on the lower rung of the ladder will not pay this amount now our salaries have been drastically cut to a mere subsistence level. To pile up huge reserves is, in this instance, foolish and unnecessary.

Yours, etc.,
SCHOOL ATTENDANCE OFFICER.

Lancashire, Jan. 15, 1932

SIR,—I should like to express myself in complete agreement with the letter of "Camera Principis" in last month's journal. N.A.L.G.O.'s subscription is too much. Take the junior earning between £52 to £120 per annum; 10s. is hard to find when one has to attend an evening institute, purchase books for study, etc., and to endeavour to keep oneself.

Although I have only been a member of N.A.L.G.O. six years I have taken a great interest in its activities and am on various branch committees. During this time I have come into contact with a number of local government officers, many of whom only receive small salaries—for example, nurses, porters, etc., on the staff of Poor Law Institutions, who, I am sure, would enrol in greater numbers if the subscription was reduced. Yours, etc.,
JUNIOR.

Knaresborough, Jan. 15, 1932

CIVIL SERVICE CONFEDERATION

During the past few years more or less continuous negotiations have been carried on by the Civil Service Confederation with the Treasury and various departments with a view to securing an extension of sick leave privileges to various classes of unestablished employees. From time to time a considerable measure of success has been achieved and recently an extension of sick leave to various departmental classes was announced. The Confederation is now in a position to record a further achievement—the extension of paid sick leave to Women Cleaners.

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MOVEMENTS of MEMBERS

The Glamorgan County Officers' Branch offer warm congratulations to Mr. E. Charles Pole, Deputy County Surveyor, on the recommendation of the Highways Committee that he be appointed County Surveyor.

* * *

Congratulations also to Mr. G. A. North on his appointment as Chief Sanitary Inspector in place of the late Mr. J. T. Cowderoy.

* * *

Mr. H. K. Greaves, a member of the West Riding County Branch, has gone to Wallasey.

* * *

The appointment of County Librarian under the Durham C.C. goes to Mr. W. C. Hamilton, a member of the Wilts C.C. Branch.

* * *

Mr. H. C. Allen, Canterbury, has accepted a post under the Rayleigh U.D.C.

* * *

Mr. A. Markland, York, has been appointed Meat and Food Inspector under the Stretford U.D.C.

* * *

Mr. E. S. Carter, Huddersfield, is Gas Showroom Attendant at Birkenhead.

* * *

Mr. S. W. Todd, South Shields, has gone to Easington R.D.C. as Minute Clerk.

* * *

Mr. L. Kitchen, Rotherham, takes up new duties as Sewage Works Manager under the Doncaster Council.

* * *

Mr. R. E. Metcalfe, Keighley, has been appointed an accountancy assistant, Bingley U.D.C. Mr. J. F. Mason, also of Keighley, secured a post of assistant in Education Department, Wolverhampton.

* * *

Mr. E. H. Whittle, of Rhyl, is Holborn B.C.'s new Baths Superintendent.

Mr. F. W. Hefford, Wellingborough, goes as Committee Clerk to the Rugby U.D.C.

* * *

Mr. R. Clarkson, Wakefield, transfers to Spenborough U.D.C. as Assistant Sanitary Inspector.

* * *

Leeds Corporation has appointed Mr. W. E. A. Underwood, Rotherham, as Chief Assistant M.O.

* * *

Mr. A. N. Schofield, Rotherham, is the new Town Clerk at Worksop.

* * *

Miss H. Frankland, West Hartlepool, is Woman Inspector for Mental Defectives under the Sheffield City Council.

* * *

Miss M. Snow, West Riding County Officers' Branch, joins the staff of the Middlesex County Council as Sister Tutor.

* * *

Mr. E. R. Farr, Assistant Solicitor, Twickenham Corporation, has been appointed Assistant Town Clerk and Solicitor to the Borough and County of Poole.

* * *

The following changes are notified by the D.O.S of the Metropolitan and Eastern Districts :—

Mr. E. Robinson, Twickenham, to Clerk, Middlesex C.C. Public Assistance Committee, South West Division, Isleworth.

Mr. E. R. Farr, Twickenham, to Assistant Town Clerk, Poole.

Mr. W. F. Moore, Twickenham, to Accountancy Assistant, York.

Mr. F. P. Earwicker, Area 7, L.C.C., Instructor, Non-residential Centre to similar position in Area 2.

Mr. R. H. Milledge, ditto.

Mr. L. Butterworth, Dagenham, to Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector, St. Helens.

Mrs. A. Crouch, L.C.C., Stamford House Receiving Home, to Poplar Institution.

* * *

Mr. and Mrs. D. Wilkinson, Master and Matron of the Poor Law Institution, Market Drayton, Shropshire, have been appointed to similar positions at the Poor Law Institution, Farnham.

* * *

Mr. F. R. G. Hoskins, Borough Engineer's Department, Ilford, has transferred to the Education Department.

* * *

Mr. C. H. Neesome, a member of the County Surveyor's staff, North Riding of Yorkshire County Council, has taken up his duties as first-class clerk under the Salop C.C.

SOLUTIONS

CHESS

SOLUTION TO PROBLEM No. 14

1. R—R sq, P—Kt4; 2, R—R4, P—Kt7; 3, Q—K sq.

If 1, P—Kt7; 2, Q—KB4, P—Kt4; 3, Q—R2.

If 1, K—Kt4; 2, Kt—B3 ch, K—B4; 3, Q—KB4. (If 2, K—B3; 3, Q—B8).

SOLUTION TO PROBLEM No. 14a

1, Q—K6, B x B; 2, R—B2.

If 1, B x R; 2, B x B.

If 1, P x B; 2, Q—Kt4.

If 1, P—B6; 2, B x KtP.

If 1, P—Kt5; 2, Q—B4.

SOLUTION TO END GAME No. 14

WHITE	BLACK
1. ..	K—K6
2. P—R5 ..	K—Q5
3. K—Kt6..	K—Q4
4. P—R6 ..	K—K3
5. K—Kt7..	K—K2
6. P—R7 ..	R—Kt8 ch and wins.

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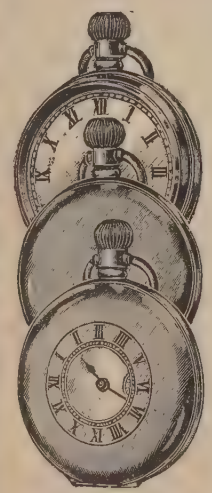

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Gold Filled, 15 Jewels	3 0 0	2 8 0
9-ct. Solid Gold, 15 Jewels	6 5 0	5 0 0

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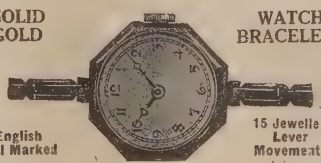

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READERS' NOTES

By Jacob Tonson

ASSOCIATION with books leads inevitably to the contemplation of the uncertainty of the future. What books I have drawn attention to in these notes have been generally of the character of those which are likely to have more than a passing existence. The difficulty of securing replacements of once exceedingly popular books indicates how quickly they are forgotten or at least neglected. It is easy, too, to overlook quite outstanding books. I have just read *Uncle Tom Pudd* (Cape, 6s.), by Laurence Housman (1927). As a study of a quaint but lovable old sinner, it is hard to beat. It is the story of two people who marry late in life, quarrel on the honeymoon, which is never really finished, and separate. The quarrel starts with the lady's objection to "Pudd"—quite a reasonable plaint seeing that her family name was "Hogg"—when the family name and estate originally rejoiced in "Pudbury." On this trifling difference the life-long squabble hung, and the characters of the two are skilfully unfolded by the niece with whom "Uncle Tom" finds refuge and sympathy. "My Aunt Judith," she says, "had more morals and conscience, by heaps and heaps, than Uncle Tom Pudd; but I didn't like her so well." Delightfully written, the incidents are recorded with much subtle humour. The book should not be forgotten.

* * *

An Innkeeper's Diary (Chatto, 7s. 6d.), by John Fothergill, has been much reviewed and discussed, but not beyond its desserts. There is nothing dating it beyond the year heading; "private papers" would as truthfully describe its contents, and like those of the "Bankrupt Bookseller," they have much to say about the customers. In his early days as landlord I am not sure that I should have cared to stay at his hotel. Readers must not expect bucolic banter; they will find many excellent comments on men and life by an educated host. Criticism of his visitors "including very many well-known people," experiences and incidents, go to the making of this record (1922-30) of his ideal inn—"not golf nor shooting, hunting, riverside . . . jazz and cocktails," but "food, wine, furniture and people" enable him to express himself "in the language of innkeeping." There is a curious passage (pp. 66-7) concerning the mummy of a twelve-foot Patagonian, for the sight of which visitors to Weston-super-Mare thronged and were charged twopence. Those who are attending the Conference this year should see this wonder: the monster had two heads, so the charge was not outrageous.

* * *

The Private Papers of a Bankrupt Bookseller (Oliver and Boyd, 7s. 6d.) contains incidents in shop-life, comments on customers and, best of all, some excellent criticism of books and life. It is said to be a true account of the short business career, failure and suicide of a provincial bookseller. Injured in the head during the war, at the death of his mother he receives a legacy of a few hundred pounds with which he purchases the business. The private papers are but thoughts written on roughly torn squares of window-paper found in his den at the back of the shop and edited by the draper neighbour next door; but they tell of his choice of books, his hopes, fears, joys and despairs. To the bookman they offer much that is worth while in comment on ancient and modern works. Still, I distrust the suicidal ending, nor would it surprise me to discover the author some day doing duty in a bookseller's shop; the contemplative conning of the world's best literature discourages the taking of one's life!

Vicki Baum's *The Results of an Accident* (Bles, 7s. 6d.), whilst not so gripping as *The Grand Hotel*, is well written. Briefly, the chief character is the doctor's wife, her humdrum life relieved by romance for a while, ending once more at home.

* * *

Hy. Fauconnier's *Soul of Malaya* (Matthews, 9s.) breathes the spirit of the country and its people as illustrated by the experiences of a planter. The book is well worth reading and the translation is good.

SISTER-TUTOR SCHOLARSHIP

The National Association of Local Government Officers offers a Sister-Tutor Scholarship in 1932 of £150, tenable at King's College for Women, University of London, for one year.

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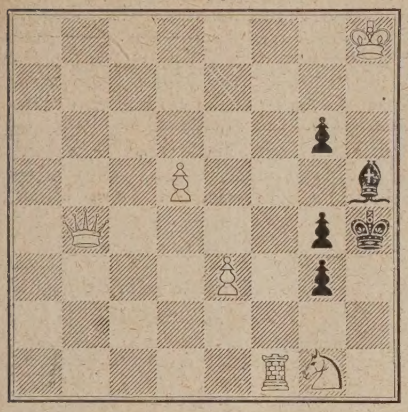
GAME OF CHESS

By ANSELMO LOPEZ

PROBLEM No. 14 (by D. J. Densmore)

Black—5 pieces



White—6 pieces

White to move and mate in three moves.

COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIP

Middlesex had an easy win in the final, against Warwickshire, for the counties' championship, the score being 11½ games to 4½. The winners' team included R. C. Griffith, A. G. Conde, W. Winter, E. T. Jesty, J. Strachstein and A. Wykeham-George, whilst on the other side there was no name of national repute except that of A. J. Mackenzie, who lost to Griffith on the top board. The only county which can put up a good fight against Middlesex is Surrey, which has managed to win four out of the sixteen matches hitherto played in this championship, while Kent, Lancashire and Yorkshire have only one win to their credit. The present victory makes the ninth of the series in favour of Middlesex. Here is a game, a lively one, from the match (board 5) :—

English Opening.

WHITE R. A. V. TAYAR (Warwickshire)	BLACK E. T. JESTY (Middlesex)
1. P—QB4	Kt—KB3
2. Kt—QB3	P—K3
3. P—Q4	B—Kt5
4. Q—B2	P—B4
5. P x P	Kt—B3
6 P—K3	Q—R4
7. B—Q2	Q x BP
8. P—QR3	B x Kt
9 B x B	P—QR4
10. Kt—B3	P—QKt3
11. B—Q3	B—R3
12. P—QKt3	R—QB1
13. Castles	B—Kt2
14. P—K4	Kt—KKt5
15. Q—Kt2	P—B3
16. QR—Q1	Kt—K2
17. P—R3	P—R4 !
18. B—Q4	Q—B2
19. P x Kt	P x P
20. Kt—K5	Kt—Kt3
21. B x P	Q—Kt1
22. P—B4	P x Kt
23. B x P	Q—R2 ch
24. R—B2	P—Kt6
25. B—Kt4	P x R ch
26. Q x BP	R—R8 ch !
27. K x R	Q x Q
28. Resigns.	

HASTINGS CONGRESS

The Hastings Christmas Congress, the twelfth of a series which has done infinite credit to the committee of the famous Hastings Chess Club, was the expected usual success. There was a very large entry—114—and in both the Premier and Premier Reserves Tournaments a strong and interesting entry. As a result of the congress two youthful players, Salo Flohr (Czechoslovakia) and Kashdan (New York) will henceforth stand in the front rank of international masters. It was a neck-to-neck race between them for first place and it was not until the very last round (the ninth) that Flohr gained the lead by the smallest possible margin, half a point. The final scores in this tournament were: S. Flohr, 8 points; I. Kashdan, 7½; Dr. Euwe, 5; Sultan Khan, 4½; E. M. Jackson, Miss Menchik, G. Stoltz, and F. D. Yates, 4 each; Sir G. A. Thomas and R. P. Michell, 2 each.

As can be inferred from the scores, the home representatives did not shine. Sultan Khan did fairly well, but he did not come out as highly placed as was generally hoped. Sir George Thomas and Mr. R. P. Michell were not at all in form.

Here is one of the games, one which illustrates the style of Flohr (who may now be safely looked upon as an early claimant for the world championship :—

English Opening.

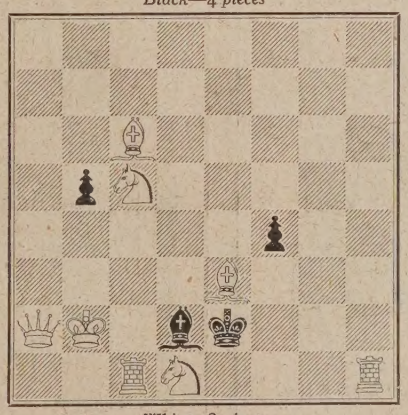
WHITE SALO FLOHR	BLACK Sir GEORGE THOMAS
1. P—QB4	Kt—KB3
2. Kt—QB3	P—K3
3. P—K4	P—Q4
4. P—K5	Kt—K5
5. Kt x Kt	P x Kt
6. Q—Kt4	P—KB4
7. P x P e.p.	Q x BP
8. Q x KP	B—B4
9. Kt—B3	Kt—B3
10. B—K2	B—Q2
11. Castles	Castles (Q)
12. P—Q3	Kt—Q5
13. B—Kt5	Q—B4
14. Kt x Kt	Q x B
15. B—KB3	P—QB3
16. Kt x KP	B x Kt
17. Q x B ch	K—Kt sq
18. QR—Q sq	KR—B sq
19. Q—Kt4	Q—B3
20. K—R sq	Q x KtP
21. B x P	R x KBP
22. Q—Kt3 ch	K—B sq
23. B—B3	R x R ch
24. R x R	B—Q3
25. Q—R3 ch	K—Kt sq
26. Q x RP	Q—K4
27. P—KKt3	R—KB sq
28. K—Kt2	B—B4
29. Q—K4	Q—Kt7 ch
30. K—R sq	R—Q sq
31. B—Kt2	R—Q2
32. B—R3	R—K2
33. Q—B5	R—QB2
34. Q—B8 ch	Resigns

In the Premier Reserves all the prizes were won by continental players. Rejfir (Czechoslovakia), 7½ points; Koltanowski (Belgium,) 6½; Noteboom (Holland), 6; Rellstab (Germany), 5½; Tylor, the Oxford don, did fairly well, coming next in the score list with 4½ points, but Golombek greatly disappointed expectations, his score showing only 2 points.

The annual congress organised by the London Chess League was overshadowed by the big and popular simultaneous congress at Hastings. But it was quite a success and the entries for the Major Tourney included Winter, Conde, Birnberg, Brown, Strachstein, Wernick, Bonwick, Shoobridge, Gooding, Watts, Jesty and Braund.

PROBLEM No. 14a (by J. Sielberger)

Black—4 pieces



White—8 pieces

White to move and mate in two moves.

Winter and Conde tied for first and second prizes. The other four prizes went to the four players whose names have just been mentioned immediately after those of Winter and Conde, and in the order of mention.

A tourney of international importance will open in London early in February. Alekhine and other big masters will be amongst the participators.

(*Continued at foot of column 3*)

AUCTION BRIDGE

By NEVILLE HOBSON

Competition :—

Whilst the questions set in the December competition were not unduly difficult, it was encouraging to find that no less than four competitors gave entirely correct answers, and the sequence of awards had to be determined by priority of entry. I would like to congratulate our first lady prize-winner, Miss M. Holman, of Carshalton, Surrey, on her success, and the replies of Mr. W. J. Heigho, of East Ham, were particularly well expressed.

Etiquette.

As the longest and most detailed question related to matters dealt with in the Addendum to the Laws of Auction Bridge under the heading of "Etiquette," I propose to refer briefly to the matters comprised in such addendum.

The Portland Club, when they revised the laws of Auction Bridge on March 1, 1928, excluded certain matters from the formal laws, owing to the difficulty of applying penalties for their infraction. From the nature of the conditions under which Bridge is played, acts may be so done and words so spoken as to convey a very distinct intimation to a partner. To do so is to offend against the most important of the proprieties of the game, and the only remedy is to cease playing with those who habitually disregard them.

The following is a brief outline of this moral code.

(*a*) Bids should be made simply and uniformally.

(*b*) "Pass" should be used in preference to "No Bid."

(*c*) It is unfair purposely to make an insufficient bid.

(*d*) Anyone having the lead or a winning card to play should not draw a second card until his partner has played to the first trick—such act being an intimation that a winning card has been played.

(*e*) A player who has looked at his cards should not give any indication by word or gesture as to the nature of his hand or call the attention of his partner to the score.

(*f*) Whilst a player is entitled to require the players to specify which cards they have played—this should be done solely for his own information and not to invite the attention of his partner.

(*g*) No player should object to refer a disputed question of fact to a disinterested bystander.

(*h*) It is unfair to revoke purposely.

(*i*) Tricks should not be stacked or formed into a book—but should be so arranged that they can be easily counted.

It is disappointing to have to record that these important matters are not infrequently disregarded. It is far too common to meet players whose method of bidding and demeanour generally give information regarding the nature of the hand or the suggested mode of play.

I would prefer not to sermonise upon the impropriety of such actions, as they are usually the outcome of thoughtlessness rather than an attempt to obtain an undue advantage. No Bridge player, however, can hope to become a high-grade exponent unless both the letter and spirit of the above injunctions are taken to heart.

The tourney is being organised under the auspices of the *Sunday Referee*.

BRIEF BRILLIANCIES No. 14

We are indebted to a reader, Mr. H. Tarner of Shaw, Lancashire, for the following game :—

WHITE	BLACK
1. P—K4	P—K4
2. Kt—KB3	Kt—QB3
3. B—B4	Kt—Q5
4. Kt x P	Q—Kt4
5. Kt x P	Q x P
6. R—B sq	Q x P ch
7. B—K2	Kt—B6 mates.

END GAME No. 14

White (3 pieces)—K on KKt5, Pawns on KB3 and KR4.

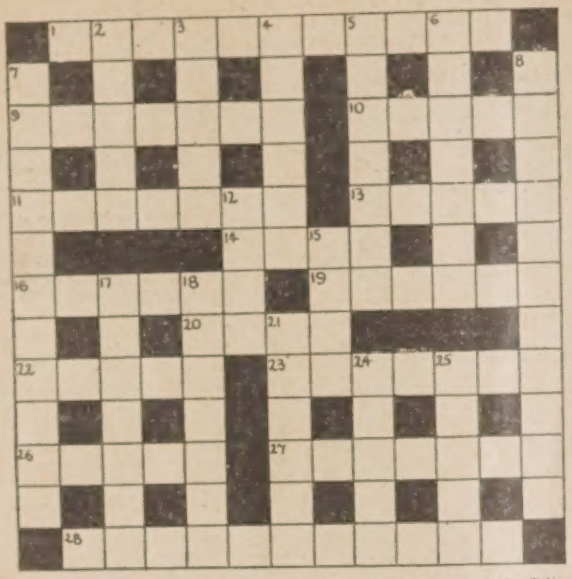
Black (2 pieces)—K on Q7, R on KR8.

Black to play and win.

(*Chess solutions on page 377*)

OUR CROSS-WORD PUZZLE

No. 12



CLUES ACROSS

1. Usually found on English tables at this season.
9. A nun dies among these water nymphs.
10. A dog that should be noiseless.
11. On this mountain a woman should fit. Peace.
13. Homes for birds or animals.
14. If this is fair, it may give you a pullover.
16. Dwell on emphatically.
19. Refer to a small advertisement for this clue.
20. "Un—, unhonoured and unsung."
22. This French pupil is nearly 11.
23. A narrator much in evidence at village concerts.
26. Tones that attack.
27. Put the States in a wiseacre for seasoned meat.
28. You can eat these flowers now, but take care that you do not burn yourself.

CLUES DOWN

2. Used for drawing charge from a cannon.
3. I like a nice pie of this description.
4. Sets up and overthrows.
5. The French nobleman has in deed inferred a truth.
6. "No! No!—"
7. Drawn and burnt at Xmas (2 words).
8. Cook the Sick Man for a dinner at this season.
12. A position that sounds like a view.
15. When you are this, you will probably be beyond realising it.
17. This relation, apparently like Felix, keeps on walking.
21. A writer but not of verse.
24. Adhered.
25. Unfortunately this part of the bride's dress has got in tar.

CROSS-WORD SOLUTION, No. 11

Across.—3. Atlas. 7. Sundae. 8. Anna. 9. Rayon. 10. Shinto. 12. Doom. 14. Ion (mot)ion. 15. Crumbling. 18. Firmament. 21. Bib. 22. Scum. 23. Nereus. 26. Oleic. 28. Ambs (ambs-ace). 29. Expand (Pax in end). 30. Amass.

Down.—1. Bush. 2. Aden. 3. Aerodrome (with apologies to the deer forests). 4. Ley. 5. Sandal. 6. Enjoin (enjoyin'). 10. Stiff. 11. Inner (beginner). 13. Eminences. 16. Imbue. 17. Gibes. 19. Income. 20. Mimosa. 24. Rapt (R-apt). 25. Urns. 27. Era (Erato).

BRANCH PUBLICATIONS

There is an increasing number of branch journals addressed, of course, to local officers, but the outsider reads them always with interest and often with profit. From Worcester City comes *The Treasury*, the unofficial organ of the Treasurer's Department of the Corporation; the first journal we have seen confined to one department. No. 1, volume 1, is brightly written and excellently produced.

"Bigger and Better and Brighter than ever" is the justifiable claim of the Bath Branch in publishing their Christmas number of *The Municipalist*. One enterprising contributor has disturbed the dust on the Council's minute book, as far back as 1613, and the entries reproduced make unusually interesting reading. This suggests that time might well be spent delving into the records of other townships, if such records be available. Excellent, Bath! But why the "Private and confidential"?

Discussions have been taking place concerning certain proposed alterations in the form of *The Guildman*, Leeds' own organ, but a satisfactory response from advertisers decided the committee to retain the publication in its present form. Under the pen of Mr. L. R. Moir (Highways Department)—selected from four applications for the honorary editorship—*The Guildman* will continue to exert its stimulating influence among the staff at Leeds Town Hall.

BUSCH CONCERTS

The Busch Quartet will give a series of concerts at the Wigmore Hall, London, from February 8 to 17, and arrangements have been made by the General Secretary for subscription tickets to be supplied to members of N.A.L.G.O. at specially reduced prices. The two-guinea tickets are available at 30s., and £1 7s. tickets at one guinea. Adolf Busch and Rudolf Serkin are artists of international repute, but this is, we understand, the first public appearance in London of the Busch Quartet. A generous welcome should be accorded them.

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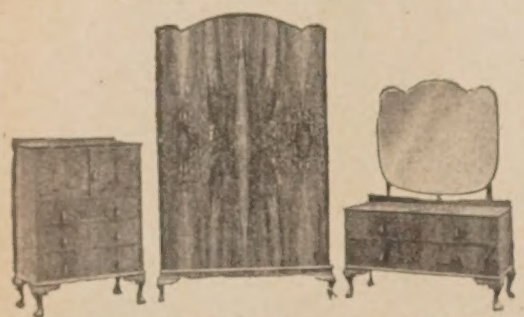

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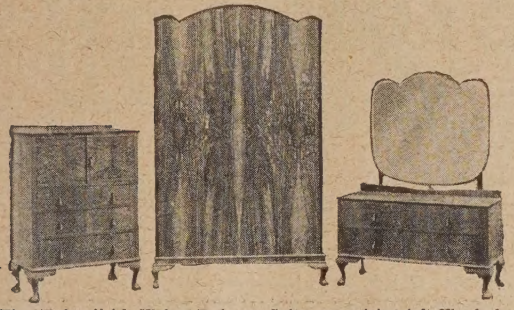

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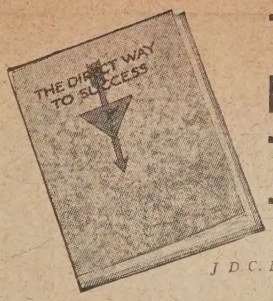

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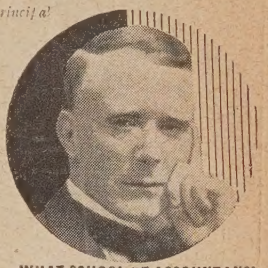

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